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THE TIMES

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PLUS: Greg Norman chases his first Masters title

Portillo walks political tightrope as visitor during Operation Grapes of Wrath

400,000 flee Israeli raids on Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Defence Secretary, walks into a diplomatic minefield today when he becomes the first senior foreign politician to visit Israel since the launch last Thursday of Operation Grapes of Wrath, the military onslaught on Lebanon that is attracting increasing international criticism.

With the number of panic-stricken refugees fleeing southern Lebanon exceeding 400,000, some British ministers are understood to agree with President Chirac of France, who said yesterday that Israel's military operation, in which at least 21 people have been killed and about 50 wounded, was "disproportionate". European opinion has been shocked by reports of Saturday's Israeli attack on a clearly marked ambulance in which four Lebanese children were killed and for which Israeli officers have shown little remorse.

Mr Portillo's visit, which includes meetings with Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, an official lunch and tours of military installations, was arranged originally as a further demonstration of improving Anglo-Israeli ties after Britain's recent lifting of its ban on arms sales to Israel. That ban had been imposed after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon masterminded by Ariel Sharon, who was then the Israeli Defence Minister.



Portillo: goodwill visit as Minister of Defence

"The focus will be on Portillo as the only senior statesman to set foot in Israel since the bombardments began," one European diplomat said. "I suspect that privately he would prefer to be in Bosnia or anywhere rather than here because whatever he says he is going to upset somebody: either his Israeli hosts if he condemns them or Britain's friends in the Arab world if he does not."

As Mr Portillo was touring Israel yesterday out of the political spotlight, northern Israel was suffering its worst series of rocket attacks for three years: nine salvos of Katyushas had hit the area by nightfall.

Across the border, Lebanese residents over a vast area of territory south of the Litani River were given hours to flee northwards or risk being killed.

Shells from 155mm and 175mm cannon were fired into the more than 50 Lebanese villages affected by the ultimatum; smoke bombs were also fired as an added warning to all the residents to flee. The swirling smoke and deafening noise of the firing have increased anxiety among the Lebanese forced to flee in a procession of battered vehicles. Israel has said that any vehicles travelling south along the coast road from Beirut will be shot at.

Earlier, the Israelis fired missiles at an electricity substation near Beirut after an electricity installation near the Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona was damaged.

The Israeli Cabinet said it would continue the attacks until it secured guarantees that no more rockets would be fired across the border. For its part, Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Islamic group, promised more attacks that would make life hell for the residents of northern Israel.

One Hezbollah rocket fell short yesterday and crashed into the headquarters of the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon. It damaged a workshop but caused no casualties, a UN official said.

The uncompromising communiqué from a crisis meeting of the Israeli Cabinet announced bluntly: "If Israeli civilian facilities are hit, there will be no immunity from strikes on parallel Lebanese facilities. Israel is not limited by time, and has the patience, fortitude and the ability to continue carrying out the re-



Refugees from Tyre in southern Lebanon crowded into a lorry yesterday as it crawled along jam-packed roads heading for the relative safety of Beirut

quired actions until Hezbollah attacks cease." The communiqué said that Israel had no intention of returning to Lebanon, as it did in the 1982 invasion, but it added: "Hezbollah terrorists and facilities in Lebanon, including those in Beirut, will not enjoy immunity." Senior Israeli military sources said that the fighting was expected to continue for between one and two weeks.

Israel Radio reported that Mr Peres had clashed in a telephone conversation with President Chirac. When he described Israel's reaction as

"disproportionate", Mr Peres replied that M Chirac would have responded in the same way if it was Paris that had been attacked.

According to diplomatic sources, some consideration was given by Britain to cancelling or postponing Mr Portillo's three-day visit, but it was considered that that would send too strong a message to Israel at a time when John Major is leading an international diplomatic initiative for a tougher collective stand against Iran and other sponsors of world terrorism. In-

stead, the sources said, Mr Portillo will urge restraint on the Israelis.

Such calls are unlikely to be heeded, with Israeli officials saying privately that until they are called to heel by the United States, they expect the violence being unleashed on Lebanon to worsen. One Israeli commander said: "We have not yet even moved into second gear."

Little interest was paid by the Israeli Government to calls from Damascus yesterday for a return to the ceasefire agreements that ended the similar 1993 attack.

Under that diplomatic formula, Hezbollah and Israel would agree to limit their attacks to military targets inside southern Lebanon. Israel has accused Hezbollah of sowing its Katyusha rocket launchers in civilian areas.

In Israel, there has been wide approval for the tough action and little political caution. The right-wing opposition Likud Party gave its full support to attacks in all parts of Lebanon.



Imran gets royal call after bomb

THE Princess of Wales telephoned cricket star Imran Khan yesterday after the bomb attack on his cancer hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. The Princess, who visited the hospital earlier this year to help to raise funds for the charity project, expressed sympathy for those caught in the blast, which killed six. She also spoke to Imran Khan's wife, Jemima, the Goldsmith heiress, who was flying out to Lahore from London last night.

By coincidence, the Princess had lunch in London yesterday with Jemima's parents, Sir James and Lady Annabel Goldsmith.

Hospital blast, page 12

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British beef is safe says EU farm chief

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS joined furious Tory backbenchers and Euro-MPs yesterday in calling for an end to the EU ban on British beef after a senior Brussels official admitted it was safe to eat.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, said the ban, which has halted exports worth £600 million a year, had been imposed to calm consumer panic over "mad cow" disease and not because British beef was a health risk.

"I would not hesitate to eat beef in England", Herr Fischler said in an interview with Reuters in Aachen, his home village in the Alpine region of western Austria. "I see no medical reason not to."

He added: "For [public safety alone] a ban would not have been needed. We also wanted to make sure that the whole beef market did not collapse as dramatically as was unfortunately the case in Britain."

Herr Fischler, who has been tipped as a future Austrian president or federal chancellor, suggested that trade in some beef-derived products, such as gelatine and tallow, might be allowed to resume before the overall export ban was lifted.

Commenting on Herr Fischler's remarks, Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "British farmers have been under siege because of a decision by the Community,

and it is just unacceptable to me if that was taken for purely political reasons."

A leading Tory Euro-sceptic, Sir Teddy Taylor, said: "Now that Fischler has admitted that he made a horrendous mistake and did it for all the wrong reasons, I hope other members of the EU Commission will listen to his abject, penitent and pathetic words of apology and remove the ban forthwith."

Sir Gerard Vaughan, Tory MP for Reading East, said: "This is an absolutely astonishing situation. Here is the man who has made Britain a scapegoat... now conceding that all this has been done just for the convenience of Europe."

Edward McMillan-Scott, Euro-MP for York, called for an urgent review of the export ban. "This is a very encouraging message from a key figure. If he had said this earlier... a lot of damage to the British and European beef sectors might have been avoided."

In Brussels, Herr Fischler's press spokesman insisted the commissioner had disclosed nothing new: "If we really thought British beef was unsafe its sale would have been banned in Britain as well as everywhere else in the world. Besides, it was not Herr Fischler who closed the borders but ministers." The

Continued on page 2, col 4
Farmers' fears, page 2

Newcastle win
Newcastle United beat Aston Villa to close the gap at the top of the Premiership to three points. They have a game in hand over Manchester United who were beaten 3-1 at Southampton on Saturday, despite an emergency change of strip at half-time. Pages 3, 23, 27

Building Bosnia
More than 200 British companies are queuing to share in the reconstruction of former Yugoslavia, where £8 billion of work is expected. A security company hopes to win a contract to clear mines in Bosnia. Page 44

Goldsmith threat
The billionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith increased the pressure on John Major over Europe when he announced he would field 600 referendum candidates with a campaign budget of at least £20 million. Page 2

Clare Short apology for gaffe on tax

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR's campaign to reassure middle-income voters was undermined yesterday when his gaffe-prone frontbencher Clare Short appeared to suggest that those earning around £34,000 a year should pay higher taxes.

Ms Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, was forced to issue a swift retraction when colleagues pointed out that her comments directly contradicted those made by the Labour leader last week. On GMTV's Sunday programme, Ms Short backed the leadership's calls for a fair tax system but added: "I think in a fair tax system people like me would pay a bit more tax."

During his visit to America last week Mr Blair said that he did not want to raise taxes for those on middle incomes. He has previously made clear that

those on about £30,000 would not be targeted.

Ms Short's senior colleagues immediately described her comments as naive, and Labour officials were forced to defend the party against a barrage of attacks from Tory ministers claiming that its tax plans were in disarray. Mr Blair's aides said her comments had been infelicitous.

The Shadow Transport Secretary, who earns £34,085 as an MP, hurriedly issued a statement claiming that it was misleading to see her remark as a call for higher taxes for people on middle incomes. She said most middle-income families had been "hammered" by Tory tax rises; the Labour Party has no intention of adding to their tax bills.

Ms Short, who has twice recently embarrassed the leadership with off-the-cuff remarks, further angered some frontbench colleagues when, asked if her view had been cleared with Mr Blair, she said: "It's cleared with me. I speak for what I see to be the truth."

Ms Short previously embarrassed colleagues by advocating the legalisation of cannabis and by criticising the decision of Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, to send her son to a selective school.

Anatole Kaletsky and Peter Riddell, page 18

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Heritage dismisses 'troublemakers'

Kenwood Friends accuse Stevens of neglecting masters

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, was last night embroiled in a dispute over a priceless collection of Old Masters. Critics accused him of putting the works at risk by sealing down the organisation's responsibilities for Kenwood House on Hampstead Heath.

Patrons of Kenwood said that under his leadership English Heritage had neglected the 18th-century building, which has an outstanding Robert Adam interior and one of the nation's most important collections of paintings and furniture.

At their annual meeting, some of the hundreds of Friends of Kenwood urged Sir Jocelyn to reinstate a full-time curator to oversee the display, care and study of a collection that includes Vermeer, Rembrandt and Gainsborough.

Sir Jocelyn, who did not attend the meeting yesterday, dismissed the protesters as "troublemakers". He criticised George Levy, a leading antiquities dealer who chaired the meeting, and Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, as "people with plenty of spare time" who "have got used to the impression that they run Kenwood".

"The Friends are not behaving like friends. They are behaving in a very aggressive manner," Sir Jocelyn said. "We don't actually need the Friends if they're going to



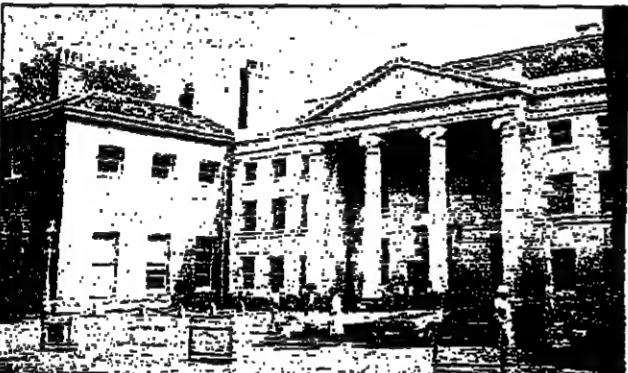
Stevens: had to cut costs



Stainton: voiced criticism

behave like this." Lindsay Stainton, one of the Friends, said the family of Edward Cecil Guinness, the 1st Earl of Iveagh (1847-1927), who bequeathed the collection to the nation, was "very upset and deeply concerned".

Miss Stainton, a curator at Kenwood in the 1970s, said: "Stevens runs [English Heritage] as a personal fiefdom."



Kenwood House works by Vermeer and Rembrandt

He's the guardian of our heritage... he's not lord and master."

A motion urging the appointment of a permanent curator and expressing concern at room closures was passed unanimously yesterday. The three full-time curators at the house, a popular venue for concerts, were withdrawn last year. One Friend complained that the administrator appointed to run the house was a former manager of an old people's home with no expertise in art.

Peter Barber, deputy map librarian at the British Library, said an untrained administrator would not see what a curator saw. Objects that had lasted for hundreds of years were damaged imperceptibly day by day. "We've had a robust response from Jocelyn Stevens. It's right we should give him an equally robust response."

Mr Barber said private collectors felt less inclined to lend their works to Kenwood because English Heritage had downgraded the house's importance as a centre for 18th-century studies. A Rubens and two Panini works had been withdrawn by their lenders, he said. "This is the first step in its decline. In 30 years' time we will find ourselves in the same position as houses in Italy - closed."

Sir Jocelyn sent two members of staff to the meeting. Ian Dejardin, one of English Heritage's curators, who visits Kenwood at least twice a week, explained the withdrawal of the Rubens and Panini loans. He said the owners had wanted to show off the paintings in their newly redecorated homes. "What am I to say? No you can't?"

Sir Jocelyn said there was no need for a senior curator to be based at Kenwood, and that the collection had never been in better condition. He pointed out that the house cost £1 million a year to run, and English Heritage was faced with a £44 million cut in its government grant over the next four years.



Mick Adkin training for next Sunday's London Marathon, when he hopes to beat the 2hr 55min he ran in 1984

Crippled runner's marathon task

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

IN THE TIMES

A PARAPLEGIC athlete is to take part in the London Marathon on Sunday, 12 years after he competed as an able-bodied athlete.

Mick Adkin, a solicitor from Woking, Surrey, aims to beat the 2hr 55min he recorded in 1984. His running days ended a year later when a hit-and-run driver crashed a stolen car into his touring bicycle in Britanny. Mr Adkin, 44, remembers nothing of the crash. He spent five months in hospital and is now in a wheelchair with no movement below the shoulders.

However he returned to the solicitors firm in Woking, where he is now a partner, and, as a keen sportsman, was determined to enjoy as many aspects of his old life as he could. Although running was gone, he took up skiing.

Friends pestered him to try the marathon so he finally agreed, and he is to raise funds for the International

Spinal Research Trust and Woking Hospice Appeal.

A dozen years on from his last competition, his training routine is much the same. He leaves his car at work, changes into his sporting clothes and dodges the rush-hour traffic until he can cut through into the back roads between New Haw to Woking. The next morning he trains alongside the early morning traffic on his way to the office before changing into his working clothes.

Mr Adkin makes light of the effort but it takes him longer to change and climb from his daytime wheelchair into his £1,500 three-wheeled racing model than it does to

complete the journey. "I'm relatively careful and always fully fit up, but most people probably think 'There goes that moron' when I go shooting across the main roads. Whenever the police come up beside me they say, 'Are you completely mad?'"

The reaction is one he has grown used to, and accepts. "To be honest, if I see someone in a wheelchair at the top of a mountain I will look because it's unusual," he said. "You do get all the questions about courage and resilience and it can get repetitive because I have heard them so many times, but most people are very helpful and you tend to have to be an ambassador on all sorts of occasions."

"I'm looking forward to getting on with it. At first I thought there was no way I could even train because of all the potholes, rubbish and cambers on the main road, so I went on to the minor roads. Now I hope to be able to beat my 1984 time. We'll see."



Mr Adkin in 1984

Treasure hunters fight plan for new law

BY TIM JONES

TREASURE hunters will meet National Heritage officials today to try to avert new laws governing their discoveries. The proposals would mean they could be fined up to £5,000 and sentenced to three months in prison if they failed to report a find to a coroner within two weeks.

The current Treasure Trove law says only objects made of gold or silver, which have been deliberately buried with the intention of recovery, can be declared treasure trove and are therefore the property of the Crown. Other finds can be kept by the finder.

The Bill, heading for its third reading in Parliament, will remove the requirement to prove that objects were intentionally buried.

All objects, other than coins, which contain at least 5 per cent by weight of gold or silver and are at least 300 years old will be treasure and deemed the property of the Crown.

Coins that are more than 300 years old found in hoards will be treasure and if they contain more than 5 per cent of precious metal.

The National Heritage department denies the Bill is hostile to the electronic searchers and says there are no plans to alter the practice under which detectorists who make a treasure trove find are paid the market price.

Reds in a blue funk over lack of eminence in grey

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND PETER BALL

LIFE is tough when you are a Manchester United supporter. You have just shelled out £50 in the souvenir shop at Old Trafford to buy the children the new grey away strip when the players threaten to ditch it because they cannot see each other.

The team under pressure at the top of the Premiership was unexpectedly losing against Southampton, under pressure near the foot of the table, on Saturday when, at half time, manager Alex Ferguson ordered them to switch to a blue and white kit. That they were losing 3-0 had something to do with the fact that they were blending into the background, Ferguson said.

His decision will be welcomed by the club's thousands of teenage and sub-teenage followers: although they loved the two-tone grey as the perfect accompaniment to blue denim jeans, there is promise of yet another new strip on the way.

But the news will cause dismay among the fans' parents, who already suffer from United's aggressive marketing policy which involves bringing out a new strip at least once a season. Young Mancunians' desire to be in the front row of fashion means hundreds of thousands of pounds for the club every time there is a change of colours.

The grey strip for away games was introduced at the start of this season, and thousands of fans queued at Old Trafford to buy it. Kids on the block across Greater Manchester would not be seen dead in last year's kit. Suppose, by accident, they encountered a Manchester City supporter: how cruel the taunts would be.

United's amazing Technicolor strips are supplied under a lucrative sponsorship deal with Umbro, the Manchester-based sportswear manufacturer. The club signed a five-year contract with Umbro earlier this year, estimated to be worth £60 million over five years. The grey shirt was due to be played in for two years.

Ferguson said yesterday that the team disliked the grey strip, and would not be using it again. "You can't pick people out at a distance. Players just blend into the crowd, so I decided at half

time to change it." He denied suggestions that his team were superstitious, and felt that grey brought bad luck. United have appeared five times in their grey strip: they lost four of the matches and struggled to draw the fifth.

Ken Ramsden, spokesman for the club, could not say yesterday whether the abandonment of grey would mean yet another edition of strip foisted upon fans. "Nothing has been decided at the moment," Mr Ramsden said.

There were indications yesterday that Umbro at least are receptive to Ferguson's unhappiness, and they are expected to meet United representatives today to discuss the matter. "Of course we will meet them if they want to talk to us," Mr Ramsden said, "but we will not be instigating a meeting."

United off colour, page 27



All change: Cantona goes from grey to blue stripes

Rush for the BR logo now departing

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British Rail's "double arrow" logos are being sold off to rail enthusiasts as a memento of the fast-disappearing nationalised company.

With the Government determined to complete the BR sale before the election, the famous emblem has already disappeared from all stations, railway posters, marketing material and the inside of most trains, and will eventually be removed from tickets. However, when the Rail magazine saved about 1,000 aluminium double arrows from the side of BR's former fleet of post and charter

trains, it found a sale offer heavily oversubscribed. Steve Knight, the deputy editor who has two of the metal signs at home, said they had received 1,200 orders for the souvenir, priced at £34.95, with dozens more flooding in every day. A 24-hour credit card hotline has been set up.

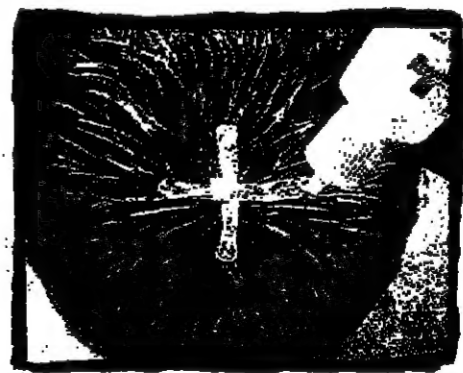
Purchasers receive a certificate identifying which locomotive their double arrow came from. The logos, with a scrap value of £5, measure about 70cm by 30cm and weigh 5kg.

North & South Railways, the American-owned company that has bought Rail Express Systems, a former BR subsidiary that operated Post Office and charter trains, has been given 90 days to

BR to remove the double arrow from all its locomotives and stationery. Most of the 16,000 former BR passenger trains sold last September had painted logos rather than a metal sign.

The symbol was invented by George Williams, director of industrial design at BR in the mid-1960s. When it was first revealed in 1964, one newspaper critic said it was like "a piece of twisted barbed wire." But Barry Doe, a transport consultant who has one on his sitting room wall, said: "Despite all the jokes, I believe that it was one of the finest logos ever invented because it is so simple."

After privatisation, it will survive on road, some waiting, but not



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Book condemns Macmillan plot

Queen's decision to block Butler 'damaged Crown'

By ALAN HAMILTON

COLLUDING with Harold Macmillan to block the succession of R.A. Butler as Prime Minister in 1963 was the biggest political misjudgment of the Queen's reign, a new book claims.

Ben Pimlott, professor of politics and contemporary history at Birkbeck College, London, says that, faced with Macmillan's ruthless determination that Butler should not become Conservative leader, despite being the obvious candidate, the Queen took the line of least resistance and allowed herself to be turned into a political pawn. The result was a disaster for what remained of royal discretionary power.

In a biography of the Queen published to mark her seventieth birthday next Sunday, Professor Pimlott argues: "The whole sorry tale of the selection of Macmillan's successor shows how easily the monarch, if he or she forgoes the role of arbiter, can be exploited by unscrupulous politicians with an agenda of their own."

Macmillan announced his departure in dramatic fashion, from a hospital bed where he was awaiting a prostate operation. In a reversal of usual practice, the Queen had to travel to see him and to accept his resignation. During

the half-hour farewell meeting which Pimlott describes as "the most remarkable audience in modern monarchical history", Macmillan suggested that the Queen call on the Earl of Home as her next Prime Minister. At the time, the highly regarded Butler was Deputy Prime Minister and the favoured candidate.

Enoch Powell, the veteran parliamentarian, says in the book: "The Queen was a victim of a violation of the Constitution. It is unthinkable that a Prime Minister should say 'Here is my resignation' and then 'Here is my advice.'"

Courtiers quoted by Pimlott recall that as soon as the Queen returned from the hospital, she expressed a wish to call on Home. One suggests: "Rab [Butler] wasn't her cup of tea. When she got the advice to call Alec [Douglas-Home] she thought, 'Thank God.' She loved Alec. He was an old friend. They talked about dogs and shooting together. They were both Scottish landowners, the same sort of people, like old school friends."

Lord Charteris of Amisfield, then an assistant private secretary to the Queen, recalls her almost-instant desire to summon Home: "It is interesting that she should have felt

such an inclination, without any doubts for the man she had just spoken to [Macmillan] had no more constitutional authority than any other MP, a point of which she was firmly reminded in the car on the way back to the Palace by Adams [her private secretary], who stressed that, as the advice was non-constitutional, she did not have to take it."

Professor Pimlott suggests that the wily and Machiavellian Macmillan, raking in the very reason that he would hold strong personal appeal for the Queen: "Macmillan's motives were complex and devious. The Queen's were, as ever, simple. She wished to avoid constitutional impropriety, and believed that this was to be achieved by taking the line of least resistance."

There was little direct criticism of the Queen at the time; Macmillan was considered the main villain whose advice was hard to refuse. One positive result of the debacle was that it led to a major change in the way the Conservative Party chose its leaders. □ The Princess Royal would be a more popular monarch than the Prince of Wales, according to a MORI poll on who should succeed the Queen. The Princess won most support with 33 per cent, against 26 per cent for the Prince. Prince William was third in the poll, with 12 per cent. The survey of 2,000 voters for tonight's *World in Action* programme on ITV showed that 62 per cent would vote for the monarchy in a referendum.

□ *The Queen: A Biography of Queen Elizabeth II*, will be published by HarperCollins on 16 September.

Liver girl bounces back after triple transplant

By LIN JENKINS

A GIRL who had a record three liver transplants within a fortnight is celebrating her fourth birthday by launching an appeal for more people to carry donor cards.

Reeva Weeden was given a 2 per cent chance of survival when her condition deteriorated so badly that a third liver transplant was her only chance of life.

At the time of the operations in April 1993 her mother, Kelli Weeden, 26, almost gave up hope. "We never thought we would see her fourth birthday," she said. "She is a dainty girl because of the last year, but I am so grateful she is alive."

Reeva, whose name comes from the Latin for "strength regained", was born with a severe defect of the bile duct. She was jaundiced, suffered acute skin complaints and was on antibiotics for the first weeks of her life. Efforts to repair the duct failed and she was referred to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge for a transplant.

"If she had not had the first transplant she would have died," her mother said. However, she developed complications and had to undergo a second transplant, which also failed. "The doctors thought she would not pull through. She really was very poorly and they discussed whether to give her another chance. There was also a risk of brain damage if she did survive a third transplant. In the end, she is your child and you just want her to live."

Reeva, who lives in Louth, Lincolnshire, with her parents and her sister Khalee, eight, and brother Brent, six, is heading an appeal on behalf of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation for more donors. Alan Rasmussen, the consultant who carried out the surgery, said that for a child to undergo three such operations in two weeks was an extraordinary ordeal.



Reeva Weeden: at one point doctors gave her a 2 per cent chance of survival

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body found in sports centre pool

Five people were being questioned by police after a 24-year-old man was found in a swimming pool. The partially clothed body of Stephen Westwood was found after officers were called to a suspected break-in at the Hardwick sports centre in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, on Saturday. A post-mortem examination and forensic tests were being carried out on Mr Westwood, who lived in the area.

Murder charges

A man will appear in court today charged with murdering twin brothers found in a canal with head injuries. David Dillon, 37, unemployed, of Islington, north London, will appear before Highbury Corner magistrates.

Two accused

Michael Crossley, 34, of Northfleet, Kent, has been charged with the unlawful detention of Michelle Wilson. On the same charge is Steven Playle, 33, of Sidcup, who is also charged with murdering her father, David, in 1992.

Britons killed

Two Britons died when their motorcycle crashed into an oil tanker near New Delhi. Alexander Ayalp and Lisa Genny, from Birmingham, were returning from visiting Fatehpur Sikri, an abandoned city near Agra.

Reward demand

Gatwick Zoo has received a note demanding a reward of more than £300 for Bruce, a five-year-old South American macaw that flew off after Jenny, its four-year-old companion, was stolen from the zoo.

£3.8m winners

Three tickets won £3.8 million each in the weekend's National Lottery draw. Sixteen tickets matched five numbers, plus the bonus ball to win £221,342 and 933 had five balls to win £2,372.

Winning numbers, page 22



Butler, left, and Macmillan: loser and final victor

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THE TIMES MONDAY
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New cancer surgery may save 2,500 lives a year

By Derek Prigent and Stephen Farrell

A LIFE-SAVING operation has been approved by the Royal College of Surgeons after years of campaigning by a consultant. It means that victims of rectal cancer may be able to have more specific surgery rather than a "bombing" technique in which organs are said to be removed unnecessarily.

Cancer of the colon and rectum is the second-biggest cancer killer in Britain after lung cancer. Bill Heald estimates that, if all surgeons adopt the technique that he has promoted, about 2,500 lives a year could be saved.

Guidelines approved by the Royal College last week recommend his technique of "total mesorectal excision" in the 8,000 cases a year where cancer strikes in the lower rectum. Two thirds of patients seen by his team at the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke are cured, against the national average of one third. Mr Heald, 59, has performed the operation for 17 years, refining and demonstrating it to surgeons from Australia, South Africa, the United States and Europe.

Other doctors in specialist centres around Britain also use the procedure, which takes between three and six hours and often avoids the need for

colostomy bags. But many general surgeons still use abdomino-perineal resection, which removes far more surrounding tissue and sacrifices the anal canal, but takes a fraction of the time.

Mr Heald, who was elected vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons at the meeting which approved the procedure, said: "I am delighted the method has received the official stamp of the college."

He argues that medical advances and careful analysis of the cancer make it no longer necessary to remove all the organs and tissue previously extracted. The cancer is usually confined to an area of tissue around the rectum known as the mesorectum, he claims.

"The difference lies entirely in precision. It has always been assumed that the old operation had to be the best because it was the biggest. But you can have less mutilation simply by being very precise," he said.

"Removing the anus and tissues around it is actually irrelevant to the cure of cancer; it is just easier and quicker, but less precise. It is like using a bigger bomb to destroy something rather than removing it more accurately. I think in the early years a lot of people simply didn't believe my data was correct."

Mr Heald has performed 60 operations abroad — in Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy and Finland — using a £57,000 high-definition Sony back-projection system to allow other surgeons to view from adjacent rooms. A two-day demonstration will be held at the Royal College in London this week for 26 surgeons eager to learn the technique. "It has occupied five years of my life and represents a lot of personal sweat, but it has been very satisfying," he said.

The guidelines must now go before the Department of Health for independent assessment before being approved by the NHS executive.



Laura Jenkins, one of the last to become a registered general nurse, at Guy's

Guy's says farewell to its last trainee nurses

■ The first nurses to train at Guy's learnt only from practical experience. Joanna Bale talks to one who marks the end of an era

THE last nurses to train at Guy's Hospital School of Nursing in London will graduate next month at a commemorative service at Southwark Cathedral.

Laura Jenkins, 23, will be among the last to receive the coveted Guy's School of Nursing graduation badge. When Ms Jenkins joined Guy's School of Nursing in January 1993, she was following in the footsteps of her mother, who trained there in the late 1960s. "I had no idea I would be one of the last Guy's nurses," she said. "It's a great honour, but it really is the end of an era. Guy's nurses are world-renowned."

She will be among the last to receive the registered general nurse qualification. Nursing training has been revolutionised since the school became part of a new training college, the Nightingale Institute, when Guy's merged with St Thomas's Hospital in 1993. Nurses are now trained under Project 2000, which treats them more like students, with the emphasis on theory rather than ward-based experience.

Miss Jenkins said: "I was paid a salary and worked mostly on the wards, with just a few weeks here and there at college. Nursing trainees now get a bursary and spend most of their time at college."

When she became a trainee she was paid £7,000 plus overtime. Now she will receive a salary of £13,000 as a staff nurse at Guy's, where she has been offered a job. She is currently working on a general surgical ward where she works eight-hour shifts, starting at either 7.15am or 1.30pm, and has every weekend off

when the ward shuts. She said: "When you finish your training you have to apply for a job — not everyone has been as lucky as me. Some are still looking."

Like all nurses, she feels under pressure because many trained nurses have been replaced by lesser-qualified health-care assistants. "I wish we had more time to talk to the patients, but it is still a very rewarding career," she said.

Her experience is a far cry from that of Annie Cooper, who joined Guy's School of Nursing during its first year, 1880. When the hospital had opened in 1726, for "incurables", its nurses were untrained and their only uniform was a red sash with the name of the ward and

their status, worn over their own clothes. They were usually poor, illiterate women who were frequently reprimanded for being drunk and disorderly and for stealing food.

By the time the School of Nursing began, things had changed dramatically. Annie Cooper was 23 — the minimum age — when she joined as a trainee nurse.

The food was rough and unappetising and she worked ten-hour day shifts and 12-hour night shifts. Miss Cooper lived with 15 other trainees in a dormitory in the hospital's attic. She took her meals in the basement, a small, airless room.

The nurses at Guy's, as at the other great voluntary hospitals, were divided into two groups, a smaller body of lady-pupils and a larger group of ordinary women, such as Miss Cooper. The lady-pupils paid a considerable fee for a training that was condensed into one year. They lived in the comparative luxury of the Matron's House.

Miss Cooper's training was basic and the nurses could be taught only in the wards because there was nowhere else. Her duties included making swabs and dressings by stitching together pieces of cloth. She also spent much of her time scrubbing the ward floors and washing linen in the sculleries. There were no weekends off or holidays until 1894.



A sister from Guy's at the turn of the century

The subtle shake and rattle that depends on role

WHENEVER I was called out in the early hours to visit someone who was having an attack of the shakes the diagnosis was usually obvious. I went expecting to find either that the person had a rapidly developing fever and was suffering from rigors, or had been subjected to a severe shock that had left them shaking uncontrollably.

Subtle shakes, which can be pointers to disease or a sign of a hard-drinking — even dissolute — life, are a greater test of a doctor's skills. Two scientists, Dr Geoffrey Walsh of

Edinburgh University and Dr Martin Laidlaw of Birmingham University, have developed a tremorometer, a microchip which is held in the hand and can define a shake more expertly than a doctor or barman. The results of their research were presented last week at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Doctors classify a tremor according to its speed, the part of the body involved, its nature (whether coarse or fine) and whether it is more obvious when the patient is relaxing (arresting tremor), or



MEDICAL BRIEFING

active (an intention tremor). Many diseases, including Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, Wilson's disease, and thyrotoxicosis, have characteristic tremors. An unfair assumption is that anyone with shaking hands is recovering from a heavy night's drinking. Excessive alcohol

can produce a shake the following day but it is not the only drug that can be to blame. Patients on some antidepressants, for instance, develop such a marked shake that their cups rattle in their saucers when they hold them. Alcohol produces several different sorts of shake. The

fine tremor follows too good a party; *delirium tremens*, a terrified trembling accompanied by hallucinations, is triggered when a heavy drinker gives up alcohol too quickly, and there is the coarse tremor of liver failure — flapping hands and a tongue which flickers in and out like a viper.

The tremorometer has been used to study physiologic tremors, the slight shake which many people display when tense or anxious and which can be enhanced by anything which increases

these emotions, and the benign hereditary tremor. Fortunately the tremorometer has confirmed the clinical observation that a stiff drink lessens this particular shake — less cheering is the news that so do beta blockers.

Physiologic tremors are common in anxiety-making professions such as journalism and medicine — a perfect excuse for medicals correspondent with a fine shake.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Woman to bear her own grandchild

By Lin Jenkins

A WOMAN aged 51 who is pregnant after an embryo implant is believed to be the first in Britain to bear her own grandchild.

Edith Jones offered to act as surrogate when medical tests confirmed that her daughter had been born without a womb. Mrs Jones said yesterday: "I am absolute-

ly thrilled. It is early days yet but, God willing, the baby, or maybe even babies, will go full term."

She is carrying an embryo created from eggs taken from her daughter, Suzanne Langston, and fertilised in a laboratory with sperm from her son-in-law, Christopher. Two embryos were implanted three weeks ago at the BMI Park Hospital in Nottingham. A scan in a few weeks' time

will show whether she is having twins.

Mrs Jones, of Darlington, Co Durham, said: "This is the only way Suzanne can have a child. This baby will not be mine. It is genetically Suzanne and Christopher's. All I am doing is lending them my body for nine months."

The treatment went ahead after the case was approved by the ethics committee of the hospital last year.

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Young offenders to get taste of life in the glasshouse

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY-TWO young offenders are to be selected for a sentence of military discipline, including square-bashing and shoe-polishing, in the armed services' glasshouse. Forces staff will receive training to "sensitise" them to deal with civilians.

Details of the plan to send young criminals to join the 300 Army, Royal Navy and RAF offenders at the Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre in Essex will be announced on Wednesday by Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister.

The Government has decided to push ahead with the one-year experiment from October, despite concern over the legal implications of placing civilian offenders under military law. The Home Office

THE REGIME

06.00 Reveille
06.30 Roll call
07.00 Breakfast
08.40 Parade, followed by ordered activities
13.00 Lunch
14.15 Parade, activities
16.45 Tea
18.30 Parade, activities
19.45 Supper
20.00 Lock-up, followed by final roll call
21.00 Lights out

and Ministry of Defence have come up with a combination that will subject the offenders to a military regime under a civilian governor.

There will be no regular fraternising with service offenders, except when they share education classes and other ordered activities. "The aim is to keep them segregated, but not apart," one MoD source said. Eight four-man

bedrooms are being prepared for the civilians, in a central block that was originally intended for female offenders from the services. They will go to another separated block.

The civilian offenders will have to wear military fatigues but not uniforms, and there will be no rank structures. They will be expected to keep their shoes polished and trousers pressed, although not necessarily to service standards.

The regime will include incentives for behaving well. The first phase of the glasshouse sentence will be the harshest, with no luxuries. Phase two will allow some television watching - but only in black and white - and restricted communal periods. Under the final phase, those who have behaved well can watch colour television and walk around the barracks blocks on their own.

The tri-service Colchester corrective training centre has a military commandant, currently Lieutenant Colonel Glen Grant. He will have a civilian counterpart. The staff overseeing the civilian offenders will be a mixture of military and civilian. The military element will consist of one officer and half-a-dozen sergeants.

Before being selected for the glasshouse, the young civilian offenders will be assessed to make sure they are psychologically suited for a military regime. Colchester is seen by the services as harsh but fair. Civilian offenders will have to make constructive use of their time, including education classes and farm work.

The experiment will be financed by the Prison Service. The Colchester centre was rebuilt in the 1980s and became the sole glasshouse for all three services last year. Its capacity is being increased from 212 to 325.

□ The Prison Service is to open a boot camp for 60 young men aged 18-21 at Thorn Cross Young Offender Institution near Warrington in September. They will spend 26 weeks doing daily drill, learning skills such as literacy, personal hygiene, and finance, and working for charities.

Armed guards may patrol 'super jail'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

ARMED guards would patrol the perimeter of Britain's first super-secure jail under proposals drawn up by the Prison Service.

Officials have also outlined plans to arm prison officers at a jail holding the country's most dangerous criminals with pepper-spray guns. The plans will be outlined on Wednesday when the Prisons Board debates a report into a fortress-style prison that will cost about £55 million.

Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, has already said that arming prison staff would destroy the relationship between them and inmates.

The proposals have been put forward as a way of reducing the multimillion-pound costs of a such a jail. A senior prison service source said last night: "The service has come up with the idea of putting armed guards on the outside of the jail or providing

pepper sprays to staff inside as a way of cutting costs. They think these measures would allow lower staffing levels inside the jail."

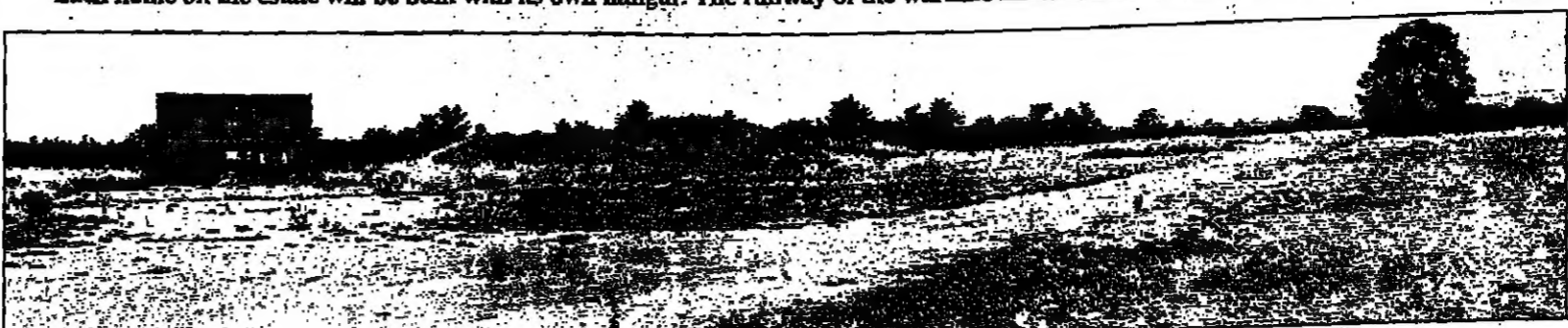
Sir John Learmont recommended a super-secure prison to hold 300 dangerous prisoners and another to take 200 psychotic and volatile inmates at a capital cost of £121 million in his report on prison security published last year.

The Prison Service set up a small team to consider the report. It is understood they favour building one super-secure jail to hold high-risk and volatile inmates.

□ The number of women in prison has risen by 57 per cent in the past four years, almost double the rate for men, which rose by 29 per cent. Many of the 2,125 women prisoners in England and Wales are serving sentences for non-violent crimes and are first-time offenders, according to the Penal Affairs Consortium.



Each home on the estate will be built with its own hangar. The runway of the wartime airfield, below, will be at the heart of the estate



Airpark offers departure from the des res

By ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS

PARKING spaces for aircraft will be provided alongside homes on an executive housing estate approved by councillors in rural Somerset. The scheme will allow residents to fly directly from their homes to business meetings.

The estate will be at a former wartime airfield in Henstridge. Home-owners will pay £1,000 a year to use the 800-metre runway. Flying will be restricted to between 6am and 10pm.

The airpark idea came from the United States, where there are more than 500. The largest, Spruce Creek in Florida, has 900 homes costing from about £50,000 to £1.5 million. One-acre plots at Henstridge will cost £100,000 and fam-

ilies will pay from about £200,000 to have their home and hangar built. A similar scheme in Shropshire was dropped because of local objections.

The project has attracted interest from aerial photographers, engineers, accountants and aircraft dealers. There are 7,709 privately owned aircraft registered by the Civil Aviation Authority.

South Somerset District Council has approved the plans, subject to agreement on flight times, numbers and landscaping. The site owner, Kedgeworth, is awaiting a decision from John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. "The application is close to Mr Gummer's desk so a decision is imminent," a spokesman said. Kedgeworth, a family firm, bought the airfield ten years ago when more space was needed for its earthmoving business. "Delays at Heathrow will be a thing of the past for these businessmen," Keith Pierson, of the company, said. "They will be able to leave their front door, step into their aircraft and be in the air within minutes. We are ready to start work and we are feeling confident. The noise survey



Keith Pierson: scheme is based on American idea

was successful, it would create employment and an alternative means of travel which would have less environmental impact."

John Shaw, area planning manager for South Somerset District Council, said: "We are mindful to approve it. We argue that it conforms to the structure plan and that the community will benefit." Kedgeworth says 400 jobs may be created.

Reaction in neighbouring villages on the Somerset-Dorset border is divided. Henry Best, Somerset chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "No one wants noise exactly, but we would sooner see development on derelict land than green fields. Any anxiety is fear of the unknown."

St George loses out to traffic

By LIN JENKINS

ENGLAND'S main celebration to mark St George's Day has been cancelled. Hundreds of cadets were to have paraded with a band in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in honour of those who died for their country.

The ceremony would have meant closing Whitehall to traffic. Instead, only a handful of people will weave in and out of the buses and cars to place a wreath at the monument in the middle of the road after the Metropolitan Police decided that roadworks on Westminster Bridge prevented them from closing Whitehall.

Nearly 500 youngsters including sea, air and

army cadets and the St John Ambulance drill squad were to have taken part in the ceremony. David Odell, general secretary of the Royal Society of St George, said: "As a society we are attempting to promote the Englishness of being English people. The ceremony was to preserve the memory of those who inspired us in the past and remind people of those who served the country well."

He said that the society lamented the lack of any formal marking of St George's Day. While the heritage industry, with its themed sites and interactive attractions, might remember the day, that amounted to "Disney history", Mr Odell said.

Abortions rose by 9% after Pill health scare

MORE than 800 extra abortions were carried out by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in the wake of last year's scare over the safety of some contraceptive Pills.

Most of the 9.5 per cent rise between last December and February was believed to be a result of women stopping using the Pill because of the health alert. The BPAS said 41 per cent stopped taking the

Pill immediately and 61 per cent did not finish their current course.

The figures were based on a survey of 28 of the charity's clinics shortly after the Committee on Safety of Medicines warned of greater risk of deep-vein thrombosis from the "third-generation" Pill. The BPAS performs about 18 per cent of legal abortions in England and Wales.

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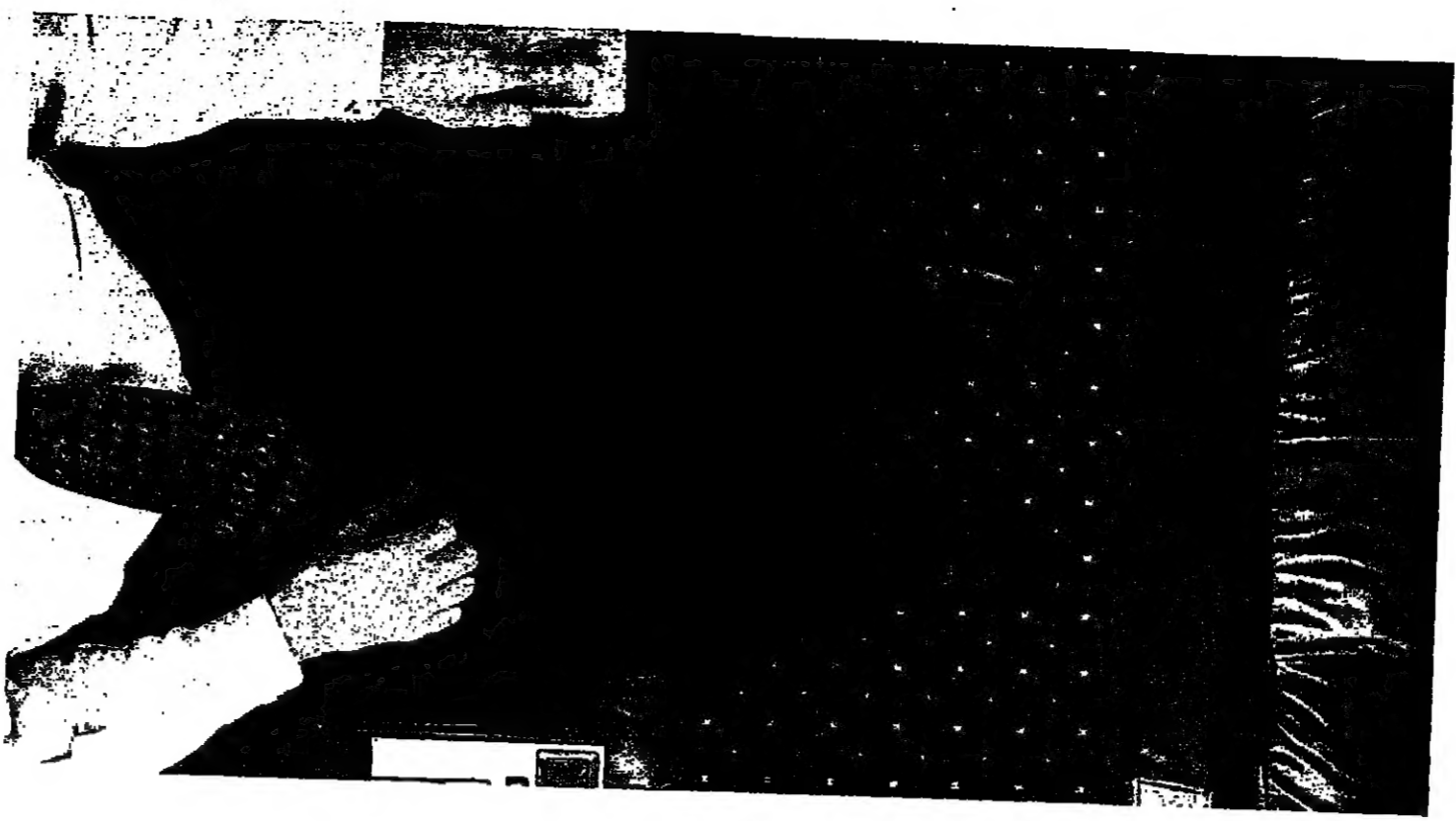
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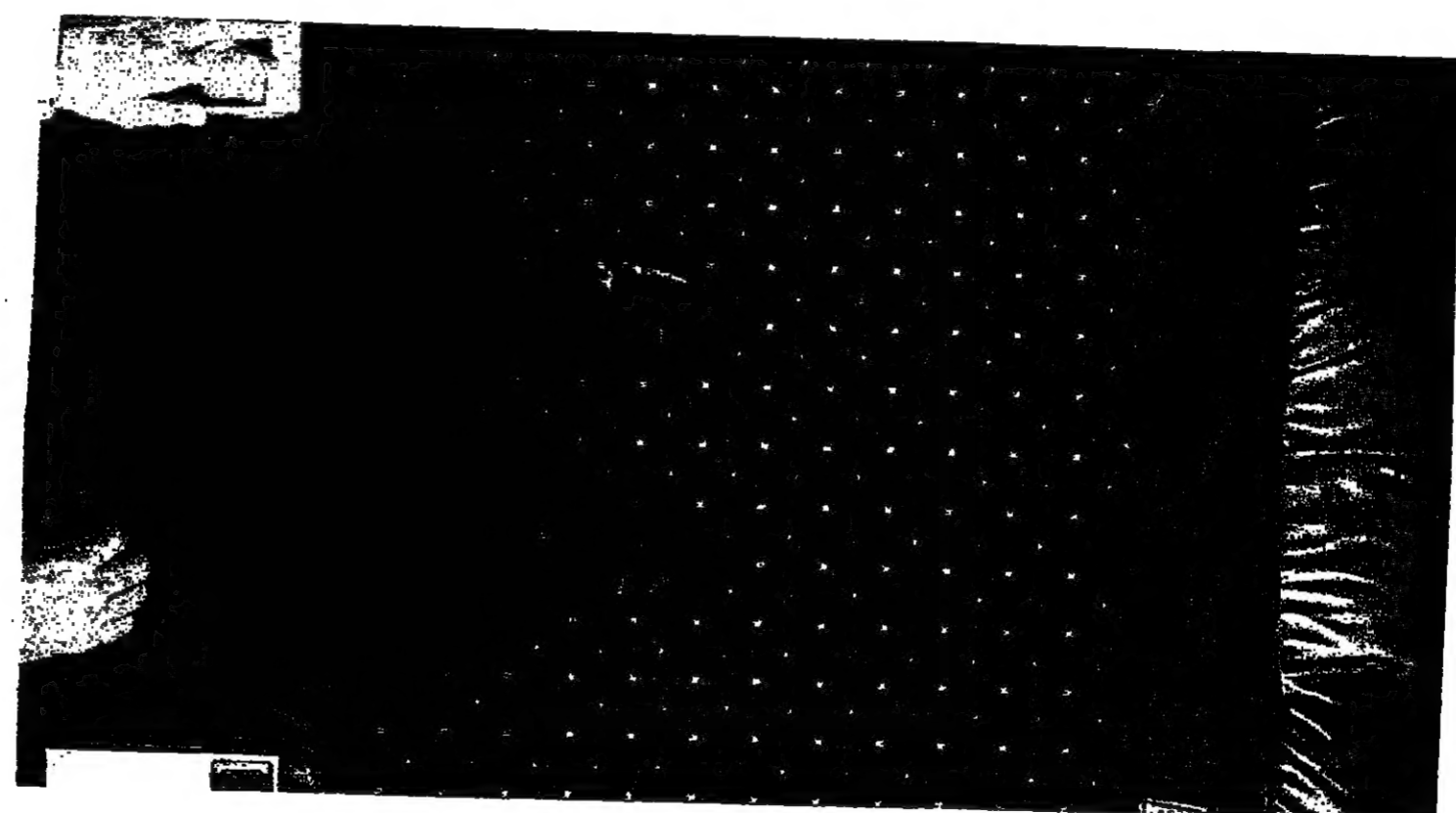
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Shops locked in legal dispute over 'first and only' claim for delicacy that began as a cook's blunder

Bakewell pudding maker fights for just desserts

BY KATE ALDERSON

IT IS the food said to have sustained Jane Austen when she was writing *Pride and Prejudice* and is the subject currently sustaining much debate in Bakewell. The issue is, whence the pudding?

Bakewell pudding, commonly and mistakenly referred to as the Bakewell tart, has found its butter, almond, egg and sugar recipe at the centre of a legal dispute that may end up in Brussels. Baker is set against baker in the Derbyshire town, where 12,000 puddings are sold each week.

Bloomers Original Bakewell Pudding Shop and The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop both claim that they alone make the "original" pudding from an authentic secret recipe.

Marian Wright, owner of Bloomers, put up signs last year claiming to be the "first and only" maker of original Bakewell pudding. The Old Original asked her to remove the words. She refused. Her



Oven-ready at Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop

rival has now taken her to court. The case was due to be heard in court three weeks ago but was postponed.

Kevin Gannon, manager of The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, said: "She claims Bloomers to be the 'first and only'. It is not." His shop had a recipe from the 1860s. When asked if it mattered who had the original recipe, he paused and breathed deeply: "It matters to us."

Ms Wright bought Bloom-

ers, along with its goodwill and what she claims to be the original pudding recipe, from the Bloomer family a year ago. She sells a wide range of foods as well as the pudding. The sign outside reads: "The first and only: Bloomers Original Bakewell Pudding. Established 1889. Connoisseurs Home Bakers." She said: "In my view I'm doing nothing wrong. Bloomers have had the original recipe in their family for four generations. The

other shop has picked on the wrong lady."

Ms Wright has hired a barrister and also intends to get a European Commission ruling on the pudding. Brussels can authorise a "protected designation of origin" notice, which would not stop others from making a pudding with another recipe, but could prevent them from calling it a Bakewell pudding.

The question of who, if anyone, has the original pudding recipe causes great debate in the town. It is agreed that the recipe dates back to the mid-1800s when a cook at the White Horse, now the Rutland Arms, made a mistake with her cooking and produced the Bakewell pudding. Customers at the Wheatsheaf pub, in the centre of Bakewell, demonstrated the heat of the conflict.

George Pearson, 55, a landscaper, was adamant about who had the original recipe. "I'm telling you that John Bloomer has the original recipe," he said, wagging his



Marion Wright with her Bakewells, said to be cooked from the original recipe

finger at a friend. "Bloomers is the only one. It came from the Rutland and ended up with Bloomers."

Carl Holmes, 35, a former cook, shook his head: "I believe The Original Pudding Shop has the recipe, and only the cooks who make the

pudding know what the secret ingredient is. To be honest, does it really matter? I don't even like Bakewell pudding."

Helen Lamb owns the Bakewell Pudding Parlour, which also makes the puddings. She does not claim to possess a paper copy of the

original recipe, but employs a cook who used to work at The Old Original Pudding Shop: "He brought the recipe with him and we call our puddings 'traditional'. There's room for everyone to make puddings in this town. Let the customer choose."

And this is how Mrs Beeton made it

This is Mrs Beeton's original recipe for Bakewell Pudding, from her book *Modern Household Cookery* in 1861.

BAKEWELL PUDDING

(Very Rich.)

Ingredients. — 4lb of puff-paste, 5 eggs, 6oz of sugar, 1/2 lb of butter, 1oz of almonds, jam.

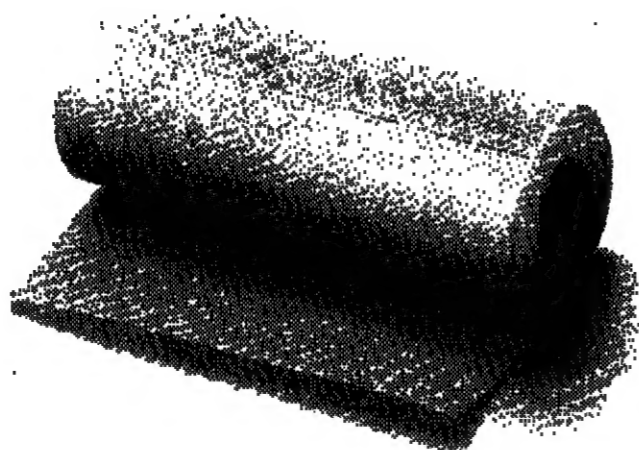
Mode. — Cover a dish with thin paste, and put over this a layer of any kind of jam, 1/2 inch thick; put the yolks of 5 eggs into a basin with the white of 1, and beat these well; add the sifted sugar, the butter, which should be melted, and the almonds, which should be well pounded; beat all together until well mixed, then pour it into the dish over the jam, and bake for an hour in a moderate oven.

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SAS men guard rare birds' eggs

BY TIM JONES

A DETACHMENT of SAS troops have dug themselves into an ancient oak forest in mid-Wales to protect one of Britain's rarest birds of prey from egg collectors.

Equipped with security and surveillance devices, the soldiers are keeping a day-and-night watch on red kites, which have just begun their mating season.

Once common throughout the land, red kites — which have a 5ft wingspan — became extinct in England and Scotland in 1880 but managed to cling on in the depths of Wales. Although they are making a comeback, the birds are still threatened and their eggs highly sought by illegal collectors prepared to take extreme risks to attain them.

The SAS men are guarding the sites as part of their training, using infra-red security devices developed during the Gulf War. They are equipped with night-vision sights and have surrounded the nesting trees with pressure pads that set off alarms if anyone steps on them.

If they apprehend any poacher, they will establish their identities and pass on details to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. To

Williams of the RSPB said: "It is fantastic to know the kites have such protection. It frees our officers for other work."

Mr Williams that, said despite maximum fines of £5,000 for each rare egg stolen, the law was not tough enough.

"The law must be changed to enable collectors to be given community service sentences and stiffer penalties."

"The extraordinary thing is that the eggs have no value on the open market. The collectors' behaviour appears to be one of total obsession. They appear to gain a sense of security by having as complete a collection as possible."



The kite: comeback

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist



Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a Times / Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all Nature's complexities. The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in Nature and will show how DNA, the molecule of life, has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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'Israel started this. Shimon Peres is using the flesh and blood of our people to win his election'

Attacks drive refugees into Hezbollah's arms

GROUPS of Lebanese refugees, some livid with rage, others numb and dazed, sat on the grass outside Sidon's chaotic town hall listening to a tiny radio detailing the "criminal attacks of the evil Zionists" on the towns and villages they had abandoned in fear a few hours earlier.

Here no one blamed Hezbollah for their misery. Israel's latest blitz was once again in danger of serving only to glorify Hezbollah as the sole organisation willing and able to challenge the region's superpower.

"When the Israelis fire rockets on our children, we must respond," said Khaleel Hussein, whose niece, Huda, ten, was one of four girls killed when an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into an ambulance crammed with refugees on Saturday. "It was clearly marked as a village ambulance," he said, speaking softly, still in shock. "The bodies are in Tyre hospital and we cannot bury them because the Israelis are attacking the city."

Photographs of the bodies of the four children and two women, carried on the front pages of Lebanese newspapers and broadcast on local television, caused a deep sense of revulsion and outrage.

Nimr Shour, 58, a labourer



Michael Theodoulou in Sidon joins the terrified and angry refugees forced north by the Israeli ultimatum to leave their homes in Tyre

from Tyre, his grey-stubbed jaw quivering with anger, said: "It is a massacre." Four children clutched at his shabby jacket. "What is their future? We have nothing to eat and nowhere to go," he said, clutching at a set of worry beads. "The only people who do not like Hezbollah now are Britain and America."

The fourth consecutive day of Israeli air raids spawned another exodus of refugees after Israel gave the 300,000 inhabitants of the ancient port city of Tyre an ultimatum to leave their homes. A similar number had already fled other towns and villages across a broad swath of southern Lebanon.

The coastal road north of Tyre was a swollen river of refugees. Many fled within minutes of last night's Israeli warning of renewed attacks. Buses, pick-up trucks and battered Mercedes taxis overflowed with people and their belongings. Groups of Lebanese Army soldiers manned

anti-aircraft guns along the road.

Inside Sidon's town hall, where the local authorities were arranging shelter for more refugees in schools and mosques, Bilal Qasim Salih, six, lay expressionless on a foam mattress, his right arm in a sling. It was broken in two places by shrapnel from an Israeli helicopter attack on Saturday.

His mother, Hanieh, 32, spoke of an uncertain future. "Where is safe? Yesterday we thought Tyre was. Today we think it is Sidon. Is Beirut even safe?"

Israel promptly answered her question with an air raid on a power station seven miles southeast of the capital, cutting electricity to parts of the city which echoed throughout the day with the sound of anti-aircraft fire. More air raids targeted the Shia southern suburbs of the city.

The second wave of air strikes on Beirut in less than a week was another blow to the

Lebanese Government, which has been spending millions of pounds rebuilding the capital shattered by 15 years of civil war that ended in 1990.

Until last week Beirut had been cocooned from the war of attrition in the south. Now its revival as the Middle East's cultural and financial centre is imperilled and the people despondent. Foreign investment is threatened and the authorities are once again burdened with a humanitarian crisis.

The Government, dismayed by Washington's fulsome support of Israel and a lack of effective Arab backing, feels powerless to halt the worsening cycle of violence. "Alone, Lebanon faces the indifference of the world," a Lebanese newspaper commented.

Damascus and Beirut say Hezbollah has every right to fight Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, although Rafiq Hariri, the Prime Minister, says that if Israel withdraws he will guarantee the security of its northern border.

The message from Hezbollah, riding a crest of popularity, was bellicose and uncompromising. It vowed to unleash its "human bomb battalions" and said it would keep lobbing Katyusha rockets across the border.

At a Hezbollah press office in Beirut's southern slums, guarded by a bearded fighter wearing an American helmet and carrying an M16 assault rifle, a smooth young spokesman for the organisation, said: "[Shimon] Peres [Israel's Prime Minister] is using the flesh and blood of our people to win his election."

Speaking fluent English and often pausing to take calls on his mobile telephone, he added: "Israel started this cycle of violence and Israel must be the first to end it."

"We are not fighting because we want to fight. We have no choice: they are occupying our land and killing our people. Do not say because we are weaker we should give in. Israel is not so strong. Look at the Vietnamese. Did they stop because America was stronger?"

Leading article, page 19



Smoke rises from the south Lebanon town of Nabatiyeh, which was hit twice by Israeli jets yesterday

Militants rain rockets on Galilee ghost town

FROM ROSS DUNN IN KIRYAT SHMONA

SOLDIERS and a lone journalist were the only passengers on the last bus yesterday heading for towns along Israel's northern border with Lebanon.

More than half of the 22,000 residents have deserted the Galilee town of Kiryat Shmona, which was hit three times yesterday by rockets fired by Hezbollah guerrillas from southern Lebanon.

The town is effectively under Israeli military rule and shortly before 6pm loudspeakers announced that all remaining residents should head for bomb shelters. When the announcement ceased an eerie silence descended over the town, where only a couple of cafés remain open for the patronage of Israeli soldiers.

Aaron Levin, originally

BORDER BARRAGE

from California, has lived in the town for 17 years. He said a loud "whooshing" noise was the only sure way of detecting another rocket attack. "If you can hear it in time, it has a whoosh to it and I run to the nearest place for shelter," he said. As for the three attacks yesterday, he said they did not disturb the tranquillity in any of the streets where he had strolled during the day.

"I didn't even hear them," he said. A community worker, he visited three bomb shelters last night to distribute food and found them all empty.

Asked how he felt when hearing of the news that Israeli missiles had struck an ambulance in south Lebanon, killing innocent women and children, Mr Levin replied: "It

is sad that this happens. Sometimes it is fate... and sometimes it is staged."

Mr Levin said Hezbollah had provoked the Israeli military campaign by its own attacks on towns such as Kiryat Shmona. He said the Islamic fundamentalist organisation was attempting to derail the peace process.

Mr David Rosenbaum, a bank worker, said he was unmoved by the news that the Israeli strikes had killed innocent civilians in Lebanon including those travelling inside an ambulance. "We told the people in every possible communication to evacuate South Lebanon," he said. "The responsibility is in their own hands."

Mr Rosenbaum was one of only two staff members at the branch yesterday which was ordered closed by the military authorities. His duties now are to ensure that the automatic teller machine is full. Asked whether he was scared by renewed threats by Hezbollah, Mr Rosenbaum replied: "I was born in Israel. I am used to this kind of living." □ Amman: Leila Khaled, who hijacked an American airliner in 1969, was barred by Israel from entering the West Bank. She had planned to attend a debate on ending the Palestine National Council's call for the destruction of the Jewish state. (Reuters)

Security blackout on 'British bomber'

BY MICHAEL DYKES

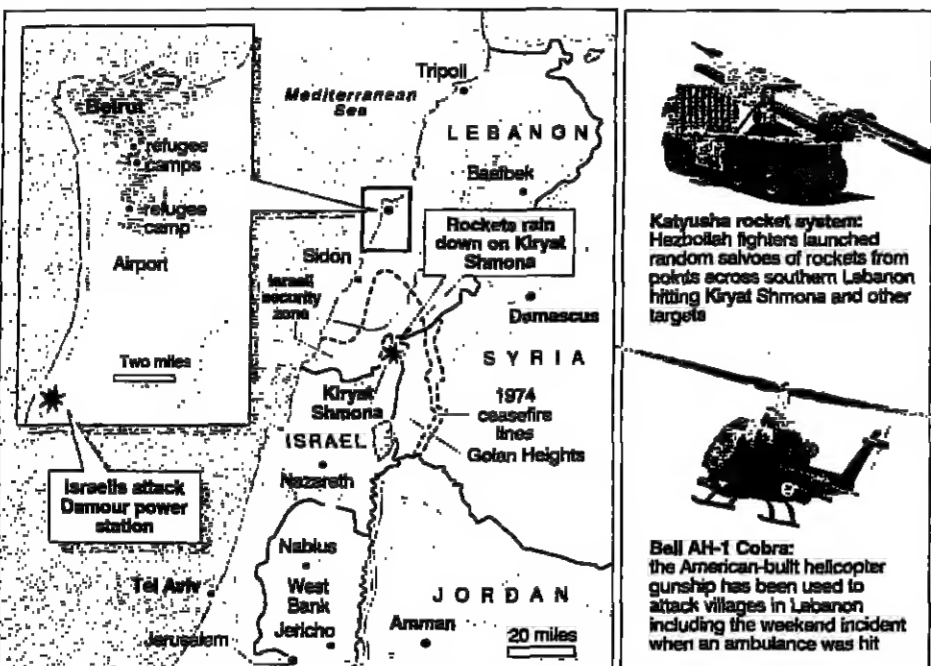
ISRAEL imposed an indefinite ban yesterday on the publication of details about the identity of a bomb-maker with a British passport who appears to have blown himself up during an explosion in his Jerusalem hotel on Friday.

A Jerusalem magistrate's court issued the order prohibiting the disclosure of any

details about the investigation concerning the injured man, his name, or the documents found in his possession.

A British passport issued in the name of Andrew Newman was found among the effects of the bomber. The authorities are still trying to establish whether the suspect is the passport's legitimate owner.

One rumour in Israeli diplomatic circles last night was that the bomber may be a British Jew who was intent on blowing up the Muslim Holy Places, including the Al Aqsa mosque. The bomber was seriously injured when the device he was thought to be making exploded in the Hotel Lawrence, a down-market hotel in east Jerusalem.



Peres's military options limited by ties with US

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL'S military options in fighting its old enemy, the Hezbollah terrorist organisation in Lebanon, are limited unless it is prepared to risk damaging the Middle East peace process and its strategic relationship with the US.

There are serious political implications whenever Israel takes military action against its neighbours. However, any further encroachment on Lebanese sovereign territory could begin to unravel the web of peace deals which in recent years have helped to create a more stable region.

Two potential military options would seem both unrealistic and

Extending the security zone in southern Lebanon would raise similar political objections. The zone which runs from 7-12 miles wide east to west across Israel's northern border was set up to try to prevent Palestinian Liberation Organisation units from launching Katyusha rocket attacks on kibbutz communities in the area.

The zone is patrolled by the Israeli-trained and equipped South Lebanese Army, but since the zone was set up, the proxy Israeli force has failed to stop attacks by Hezbollah,

who have replaced the PLO in threatening Israel's northern

border. Francis Tusa, a Middle East expert, said it would be perfectly feasible militarily for Israel to extend the security zone, but, again, Washington and Israel's peace treaty partners, Egypt and Jordan, would object.

The third option, an operation to clear out all Hezbollah units from southern Lebanon, appears to be the only realistic one for Israel. But even this military venture can only be short-lived, for fear of irreparably damaging relations in the whole region.

It may be in the political interests of Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, to demonstrate a hawkish approach in the lead-up to next month's general election, but a prolonged "sweep and clear" operation could have the same damaging consequences in the region.

An invasion would stretch Israel militarily, and the risks would be even greater than in 1982 because Israeli forces would find themselves confronting a strong Syrian military presence in Lebanon, currently standing at about 30,000 troops.

Israel cannot contemplate a military conflict with Syria at a time when it is hoping to complete a comprehensive Middle East peace package by signing an agreement with the Syrians. Already, Israeli Apache helicopters armed with Hellfire missiles have "inadvertently" hit a Syrian anti-aircraft battery.

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Clinton looks for electoral pay-off from world tour

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton left Washington last night for a week-long trip that will take him round the world and, aides hope, boost his stature at home before November's presidential election.

Mr Clinton will visit South Korea and Japan, where he will emphasise America's commitment to the region's security in the face of recent Chinese and North Korean threats, and Russia, where he will seek subtly to enhance President Yeltsin's re-election prospects while attending an international summit on the control of nuclear materials.

The President "will confront some of the oldest and newest challenges to the security of our nation, from the last unresolved problem of the Cold War — stability on the Korean peninsula — to one of the most urgent new threats we face, nuclear smuggling".

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said.

In the meantime, Bob Dole, Mr Clinton's Republican opponent in November, has postponed a speech on Asia next Monday because he cannot decide what to say. He and fellow Republicans differ on whether to emphasise China's poor human rights record, thus making it harder to renew China's preferential trading status. Mr Dole has supported Taiwanese membership of the United Nations, but some of his political advisers are warning him against an open break with America's long-standing "One China" policy.

Today Mr Clinton will meet President Kim Young Sam of South Korea on Cheju Do island. This short stop was added to the itinerary only recently and the aim is to demonstrate American support for South Korea in the light of this month's North Korean incursions into the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas.

In yesterday's *Washington Post*, William Perry, the Defence Secretary, threatened nuclear retaliation if Pyongyang ever used chemical weapons against South Korea.

Tomorrow Mr Clinton begins the state visit to Japan he postponed last November because of the American budget crisis. He will seek to strengthen a crucial US-Japanese security alliance threatened by growing resentment of the 47,000 American servicemen based in Japan. That resentment reached boiling point last September after three US servicemen raped a 12-year-old Okinawa girl.

On Friday, America announced the closure of a US air force base in Okinawa. Mr Clinton is expected to announce other concessions, including a further consolidation of American military bases, while emphasising in a speech to the Japanese parliament and during a visit to a US aircraft carrier that the 100,000 American troops in East Asia are there to stay.

For once, because it is an election year, Mr Clinton will be happy to downplay the trade conflicts that have long bedevilled American-Japanese relations.

He will visit a Tokyo Chrysler dealership to show how his Administration has begun opening up the Japanese car market, but will play down continuing disputes over Japanese barriers to American photographic film, semi-conductors and insurance.

Tokyo offer on Korea

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Government is likely to offer civilian airports and harbours to help American forces during any crisis in Korea when President Clinton meets Ryutaro Hashimoto tomorrow.

A senior conservative politician told *The Times* that the Government is likely to reinterpret the constitution in such a way that Japan can also help with logistic support such as transport and fuel.

Recent tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the Korean peninsula have brought home to the Japanese the importance of strengthening the

alliance and made them more receptive to American pressure to share the defence burden.

With the end of the Cold War the alliance is no longer aimed at deterring the Soviet Union. But as the Pentagon confirmed in a study last year, bases in Japan are vital to America's forward deployment strategy, which allows a quick response to conflicts in the region stretching from East Asia to the Gulf. It described the relationship with Japan as the "linchpin" of America's security policy in Asia.



Cindy Crawford, the American supermodel, attends an Easter service in Yelohovsky Cathedral, Moscow, where appearing in church is fashionable with politicians (Richard Beeston writes). President Yeltsin yesterday took his re-election campaign to the half-built Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and received the blessing of Patriarch Aleksii, head of the Orthodox Church. The cathedral, which was destroyed by Stalin, stands as a reminder of communist brutality and the votes of the faithful could be crucial for the Russian leader in the race for the Kremlin.

A fashionable place to be

tion campaign to the half-built Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and received the blessing of Patriarch Aleksii

Shot mugger sues vigilante for \$50m damages

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK is again debating the actions of a white man who defended himself against four young black toughs by producing a gun and riddling them with bullets.

In 1987 Bernhard Goetz, the "subway vigilante", was acquitted of criminal assault, but this week a Bronx court will resume a civil action brought by one of the youths who threatened him for money. They approached him on a subway train one December night in 1984 and demanded \$5 (£3.30). This time the amount is ten million times bigger: Darrell Cabey, crippled by Mr Goetz's gunburst, is suing for \$50 million in damages.

In the 1987 trial the gangly Mr Goetz, an electrician, exercised his right to remain silent. This time, to the dismay of his supporters, he has had to speak at length. Ron Kuby, Mr Cabey's lawyer, has followed the example of Johnnie Cochran. O.J. Simpson's defence lawyer, and has played the race card.

Mr Goetz, speaking in a steady manner, said that he was "set off" by the smile and shiny eyes of one of the youths. The jury of blacks and Hispanics heard him confirm that he once said that the "only way to clean up these streets is to get rid of the niggers and the spics". That allowed Mr Kuby to say later, in front of the press, that "this guy comes across as a real Nazi".

With the trial being televised live nationally, Mr Kuby

also succeeded in getting Mr Goetz to boast that, after shooting Mr Cabey for the first time, he said "you don't look too bad — here's another" before pulling the trigger a second time.

"I was trying to get as many of them as I could," said Mr Goetz, whose habit of leaning back in his chair after speaking into the microphone accentuated the impression of self-satisfaction. With his pinched face, wire-framed spectacles and white, open-necked shirt, he came across as a cold man.

Mr Goetz described the rush of emotions he felt on firing the bullets, and said that "the world would be a better place" if undesirables were killed. Mr Kuby then had Mr Goetz agree that he considered gouging out one of the youths' eyes with his keys after the attack. "I could have," Mr Goetz said, "it was a thought that crossed my mind."

The right wing has long held Mr Goetz as a man to admire, but the manner of his delivery has made him a less potent symbol for middle-class fear in an uncertain world. He said that he used hollow bullets to cause as much damage as possible and smirked when he recounted a previous time he pulled his gun on a would-be mugger. The man, who had previously been full of menace, "turned grey and his legs buckled".

It will be up to Mr Goetz's counsel to try to present a more sympathetic image.

Woman who says Mike Tyson bit her fears 'death threats'

BY QUENTIN LETTIS

CHICAGO police hope to interview today a beautician who claims that she was bitten on the face by Mike Tyson, the boxer.

LaDonna August, 25, a divorcee, has so far proved reluctant to tell investigators her side of the sexual assault complaint she made last week. Mr Tyson, 30, met her in a Chicago nightclub and, she says, sank his teeth into her cheek after they kissed. He denies the allegation.

Paul Jenkins, a police official, said yesterday: "The investigation continues. We have had no opportunity yet to talk to the alleged victim. The

indications are that she will be available tomorrow." Mrs August's lawyer said that her failure to attend a planned meeting with the police was caused by her fear of attack.

"She has had death threats," Jerry Petee said. "One of her concerns is that she does not want someone to hurt her child." Mr Petee said she was having trouble sleeping, such was her disquiet.

Her failure to meet the police has led to suggestions that Mrs August regrets making her complaint. She and Mr Tyson met at the Clique, a slick Chicago night club. She claims that he summoned her

after seeing her on the dance floor. Mr Tyson's friends say that nothing untoward happened and have painted Mrs August as an opportunist who was keen to meet the celebrated boxer.

Mrs August has not been helped by her "friends". One, Tammy Battle, said last week that she went to the club hoping to meet Mr Tyson. Another, Lillian Sampson, said Mrs August was "all for the money — she is a bitch if there ever was one". Melvin August, Mrs August's former father-in-law, said she was a gold-digger who left his son "once the money was gone".

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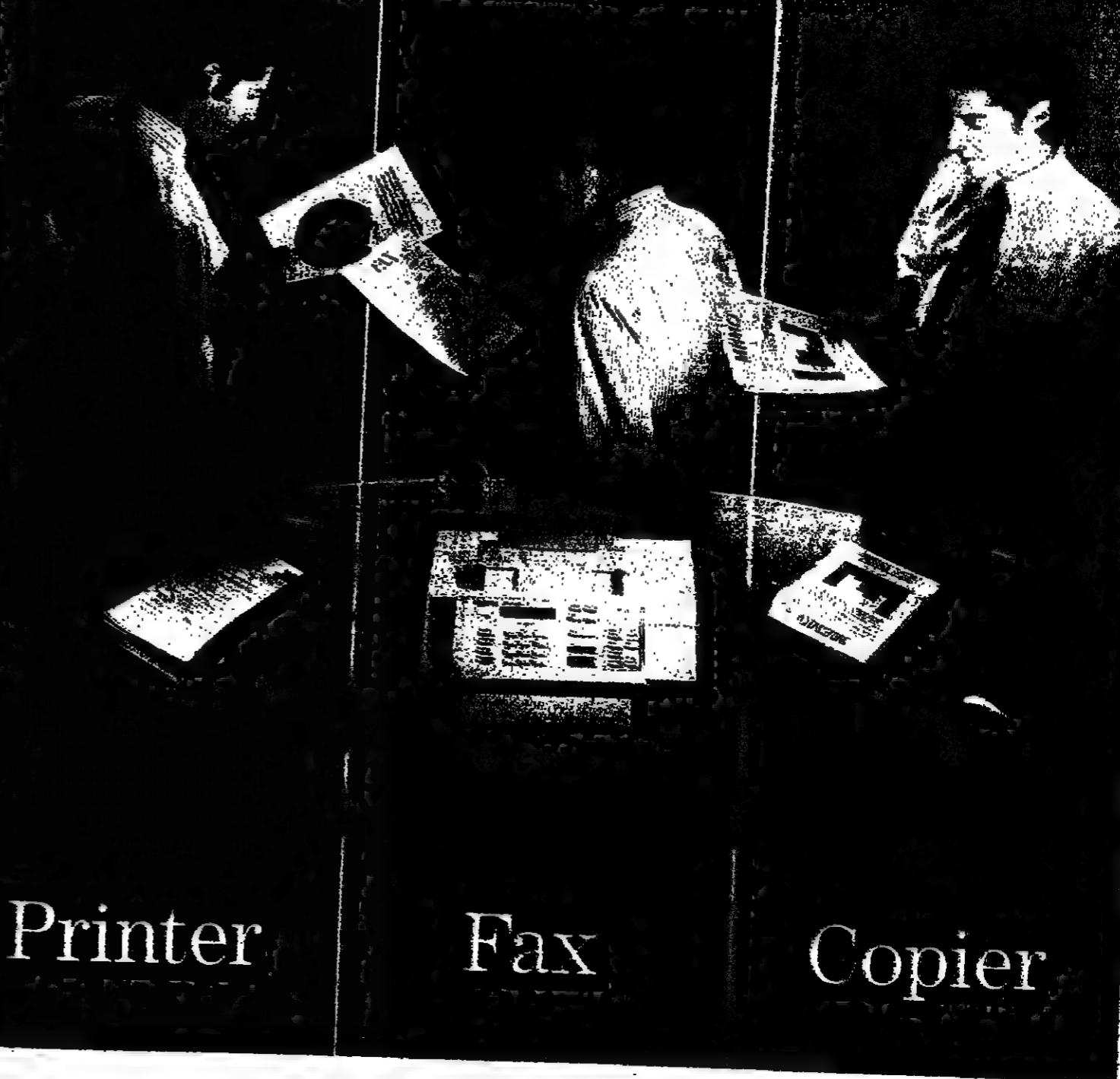
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Six die in blast at Imran Khan cancer hospital

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LAHORE

A POWERFUL bomb yesterday devastated a charitable cancer hospital in Lahore founded by Imran Khan, the former Pakistani cricketer, killing six people and wounding at least 25. The attack may have been meant as a warning to Mr Khan to stay out of politics.

The bomb went off in an air-conditioning duct close to a waiting area at Shaheed Khanum memorial hospital, named after Mr Khan's mother, who died of cancer. The reception area, chemotherapy ward and part of the cafeteria were destroyed. Several vehicles parked outside were damaged, and pieces of broken glass were scattered around. More than 150 patients were in the lounge when the explosion occurred. A 12-year-old boy and two other patients were killed on the spot. The others died later. The wounded, many of them critical, were taken to a state-run city hospital.

Officials of a bomb disposal squad said they had yet to determine the cause of the explosion.

Mr Khan, who had been expected to announce in a day or two that he is forming a political party in a bid to become Prime Minister, said

that the explosion was intended to intimidate him. "It was the work of a savage or an animal because human beings cannot do such a thing to a hospital. The bombing cannot discourage me from the work I am doing."

Mr Khan said the hospital would continue functioning. He has called for an investigation. According to one estimate, millions of pounds worth of hospital equipment was destroyed.

Mr Khan's wife, Jemima, the Goldsmith heiress, was to fly to Pakistan from London last night. A spokesman for Mrs Khan, who converted to Islam before her marriage last summer, said: "Jemima is obviously devastated. It has been a tragic day for the hospital and she's making every effort to get back to Lahore as quickly as possible."

The multimillion-pound Shaheed Khanum hospital was opened last year and took almost ten years to complete. The cost of building the hospital was met through donations personally collected by Mr Khan. The hospital, the most modern in Pakistan, treats more than 8,000 cancer patients a year.

Mr Khan was planning to launch his own political party

to oppose the Government of Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister. Miss Bhutto cut short a visit to Peshawar to fly to Lahore and visit the hospital. She denounced the bombing, which she blamed on unspecified "terrorists".

Mr Khan has emerged as the main critic of the Bhutto Government. But his accusation of corruption against the Prime Minister and her Cabinet members resulted in the Government banning his hospital advertisement campaign on state-controlled television and stopping him from collecting donations. Mr Khan has accused the Government of harassing him by sending notices for allegedly evading taxes.

In February he invited the Princess of Wales to visit his hospital and attend a fund-raising dinner. The visit fuelled political controversy and led to an intensified attack on Mr Khan by the Government's supporters. Speculation about his ambitions has been gaining momentum since November, when he and his wife rode around Lahore in a cavalcade. The ostensible aim was to raise money for the hospital, but commentators said it seemed more like a political rally.



Aftermath of the blast at the Shaheed Khanum cancer hospital in which six died

Serb aid held up by Karadzic survival

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

AID donors, led by the United States, increased pressure on Bosnian Serb hardliners at the weekend when they pledged more than \$12 billion (£800 million) for Bosnia, but said that little would go to the Serbs while their war leaders remained in office.

Sanctions, such as withholding economic aid, may be applied to any faction breaking the terms of the Dayton peace accord, which includes the banning from office and handing over of indicted war criminals such as Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and Ratko Mladic, his army chief.

"We all agree that it is imperative that they not remain in power," Lawrence Summers, the Deputy US Treasury Secretary, told reporters at the end of the 50-nation aid conference on Bosnia. "The big losers at this conference are the Bosnian Serb people."

Carl Bildt, the international community's leading representative in Bosnia, gave a warning of more sanctions if the two men were allowed to remain in power much longer.

Contrary to early assurances that most of the money — expected to reach \$5.1 billion over the next four years — would be run through the international institutions in order to ensure impartiality, each donor country can pick the reconstruction projects it wants to contribute to. Diplomats said that this meant the bulk of the reconstruction money would go to the Muslim-Croat Federation, at least until the Bosnian Serbs had dropped their present leaders.

□ Sarajevo: Haris Silajdzic, the former Bosnian Prime Minister, announced the formation of a new political party and his candidacy for President at the weekend. The New Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina, with its ticket of Muslim, Serb and Croat candidates, is promoting a multi-ethnic Bosnia.

UK Bosnia contracts, page 44

Liberian pullout cut back

Washington: The Pentagon began to scale back its hazardous evacuation operation in Liberia yesterday (Martin Fletcher writes). At the same time a brief ceasefire collapsed and Monrovia, the capital, was swept by renewed looting and violence.

About 1,700 foreigners, including several Britons, have been rescued by US helicopters since the operation began in the war-torn city. Those evacuated to Sierra Leone include UN personnel.

Editor with Aids virus resigns

Washington: Andrew Sullivan, 32, the young British editor of America's New Republic magazine, has resigned and disclosed he is HIV-positive (Martin Fletcher writes). He told his staff he has had the Aids virus for nearly three years but remains healthy. He was resigning because five years as editor was enough.

Chechnia exit by Russians begins

Moscow: Russian forces are expected to begin a partial withdrawal from Chechnia today in advance of peace negotiations (Richard Beeston writes). But Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the Russian commander, made clear that they would be redeployed "if the situation gets more complicated".

New Dole aide forced to resign

Washington: Just days after announcing that she was joining Bob Dole's presidential campaign, Mary Matalin, the wife of James Carville, one of President Clinton's top campaign strategists, has been forced out by a barrage of Republican criticism (Martin Fletcher writes).

Tutu truth-seekers ready to unlock dark secrets of past

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

ON THE stroke of 9am today, the city hall in East London, in South Africa, will fall silent as Archbishop Desmond Tutu bows his head in prayer to mark the opening of Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings which in the weeks ahead will catapult South Africa into a painful, potentially divisive expose of its bloody past.

Two years after democratic elections closed the door on more than four decades of brutal political

repression, the biggest commission of its kind ever constituted is poised to unlock apartheid's dark secrets. Over the next 18 months, with an optional six-month extension, Archbishop Tutu, the commission chairman, and his 16 multiracial commissioners face the task of guiding the nation along the path of reconciliation by confronting, exposing and, they hope, exorcising the past.

The purpose of the commission, according to legislation, is to establish "as complete a picture as possible" of the nature, causes and extent of gross violations of human

rights in the period between March 1960, when 69 black protesters in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg, were shot dead by the police, until December 1993, when a democratic constitution was in place.

Those who come forward to confess politically motivated crimes will be granted amnesty from prosecution. The commission will provide counselling and decide on reparations for victims.

The theory is that victims will be soothed and their oppressors suitably humiliated and then the country can stride forward in harmony.

However, many South Africans are sceptical. The commission has run into stiff opposition from both ANC opponents and victims.

Archbishop Tutu's commissioners, who have powers of subpoena, are backed by investigative units and can authorise them to break into public buildings and homes.

The family of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader who died in police custody, is opposed to amnesty and wants people who committed crimes to be prosecuted. Last week the Bikos and three other families launched a constitutional

court case to suspend hearings, but their challenge has scant chance of success and Archbishop Tutu has expressed his dismay at the move, saying: "We have the support of the vast majority of [the] people."

□ Ramaphosa quits: Cyril Ramaphosa, the African National Congress secretary-general who is widely tipped as a future South African President, has announced he is leaving parliament for a senior post in a black business conglomerate. He is only 43 and it would be foolhardy to assume that his move rules out a political comeback.

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Blair's Euro-thinkers need to sharpen their ideas on thorny social chapter

You might think that London already contained enough think-tanks generating ideas for Tony Blair, but you would be wrong. Stand by for the impending launch of the Centre for European Reform. Strictly speaking, the new policy factory will be independent of political parties and its board is sprinkled with luminaries such as Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield (former head of the Foreign Office), Lord Darnley (former British Ambassador to the EU). But its architects are all

informal or actual advisers to Labour and the centre's seminars and pamphleteers will not be backing Conservative policy on Europe, whatever that may be. The very name "Centre for European Reform" expresses the very image that new Labour desires: Euro-enthusiasm tempered by practical realism.

I have a modest proposal for a thorny problem which the centre should tackle, but which the gurus may overlook on the ground that Labour already has a policy on the issue. Mr Blair needs a better position on the social

THIS WEEK



IN EUROPE

chapter. Not far from the Labour leader's office, people have begun to think in previously unthinkable directions. Labour's clear promise that

Britain will join the 14 states which signed the social clauses of the Maastricht treaty may be hurting the party in the polls and is plainly hurting it with businessmen. Last week's MORI poll in *The Times* showed Labour lagging behind the Tories on only a handful of issues, including Europe. But the difference was only 31-26. Come the campaign, Tony will rain down on the job-destroying dangers that lurk in the ill-defined wording of the social chapter. Tories have not yet woken up to the importance of an opinion just

handed down by the Advocate-General of the EU court which reinterprets a (pre-Maastricht opt-out) clause in the treaty in a sense that ought to give the Government the heebie-jeebies.

Britain wants the court to declare the recent Brussels directive limiting Europe's working week to 48 hours illegal on the ground that it is not a "health and safety" measure. In an opinion that has yet to be confirmed by the whole court, a French Advocate-General not only threw out the British case, but concluded into the bargain

that "the terms 'safety and health' should be interpreted broadly". These words spell future trouble. Such trouble is multiplied many times over in the spaciouly vague wording of the social chapter itself.

Mr Blair's first attempt to get out from under these problems only dug him deeper into a hole. Last November he tried dismissing the chapter as a "set of principles"; but as a lawyer he should know that it is nothing of the kind. He then assured his audience that he had "no intention of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from

the EU". Because he is equally firmly committed to accepting majority-voted social law developed from the chapter, one of these two promises cannot be true.

Labour's Euro-thinkers are now wondering if the social chapter might not be amended while it is being put back into the treaty — to "take the sting out of business". That might not be unpopular: the European employers' group, Unice, already backs rewriting the chapter. A Labour government could enjoy both a

diplomatic honeymoon in the EU and some leverage: Prime Minister Blair could threaten to retain Britain's social opt-out unless his EU partners considered his ideas.

This thinking has not got very far. But the smart money says Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, will pronounce on this at the CBI's "Business in Europe" week in June. Any businessman wanting to help Mr Cook to reflect before then can send him a postcard c/o the House of Commons.

GEORGE BROCK

Britain given last chance to run for 'currency' bus

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN VERONA

IT COULD already be too late for Britain to join Europe's single currency at its birth even if it decides that it wants to, according to officials from the big European powers and the Commission.

The view emerged from a weekend meeting in Verona where European Union finance ministers gave a hefty shove to the machinery for launching the euro on January 1, 1999 and made clear that a recalcitrant Britain could be consigned to the outer rank of a three-tier monetary Europe.

Behind the polite discourse in Verona's exquisite Giustini Gardens, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was given an iron message by his French, German and other colleagues: Britain will pay a price if it chooses to stay outside both the euro and the new exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) which the ministers agreed to set up to link other EU currencies to the euro.

Teaming up with Germany's Theo Waigel, Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said spotters in the monetary game could not be tolerated: "We have to stop countries flouting the rules, polluting the system and earning unjustified windfalls." France led the way over the weekend with a raft of ideas, far from universally support-

ed, for punishing countries that gained advantage by letting their currencies devalue against the euro.

France and Germany told Britain it faced an urgent choice about whether to join monetary union. They would insist on enforcing the rule that requires two years of ERM membership before a country can qualify for the euro. Hans Tietmeyer, chief of the Bundesbank, brandished

"We have to stop countries flouting rules and earning unjustified windfalls"

a well thumbed copy of the treaty. "It says in Article 109, paragraph four, that a country wishing to join a single European currency must have been two years in the ERM without undue pressure on its exchange rate or a devaluation," he said.

Since the founder members are to be picked in the early spring of 1996, this means the deadline may already have

passed. "They have very little time. They will have to make up their minds pretty quickly," the French Minister said. M Arthuis and Herr Waigel dismissed Britain's argument that the shake-up in the ERM in 1993, which let currencies fluctuate much more widely, had rendered the Maastricht clause meaningless.

However, Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, said that political realism would prevail and the strict rules would be overlooked, should Britain apply for membership. Mr George said: "It would be completely dotty, if you were trying to develop a process of building a common currency embracing as many countries as possible, to exclude a country which had a stable exchange rate but had not technically been in this mechanism for two years."

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, whose own country is outside the ERM but wants to join monetary union, said a decision on the two-year rule could wait until 1998.

Mr Clarke, a generally popular figure among his European colleagues, was given a sympathetic hearing by his colleagues when he sketched the sinister image that the ERM had acquired in the British popular mind after the pound's expulsion in September 1992.



Kenneth Clarke relaxes yesterday after a photo session at the European finance ministers' meeting in Verona

ish popular mind after the pound's expulsion in September 1992.

Although only Sweden shared Britain's opposition to a new ERM, Mr Clarke shrugged off as meaningless for Britain the various schemes being floated by France, Germany and the Commission and backed by a handful of other states, for the so-called "out" members to be subject to special surveillance

and possible penalties for allowing their currencies to devalue and their economies to diverge from the rigour laid down at Maastricht.

Although Britain still reserved the right to opt into monetary union, Mr Clarke said, "if we are out, no penalties of any kind could be imposed on the United Kingdom." Officials from Britain and its partner countries scoffed at the notion that

London had been "ambushed" in Verona because all of the weekend ideas had been aired publicly in recent months.

Mr Clarke depicted as wishful thinking a plan by Yves Thibault de Silguy, the monetary Commissioner, which would require non-EMU states to submit their budget plans to Brussels before their national parliaments. Nevertheless, the Commission was told to follow up the idea

which was supported by Belgium, Germany and France.

M Arthuis made clear that Britain could count on no support from the Chirac administration as he outlined his plan for sanctions on countries that sought advantage from staying outside the euro and new ERM. The plan includes "reinforced surveillance for those not playing the game".

Leading article, page 19

French scent trouble over cent

BY CHARLES BREMNER

BRITAIN scored something of a victory here at the weekend when ministers decided on the coinage for the proposed new single currency, the euro.

This was not so much that the Queen's head was saved by the decision to allow national motifs on one side of the coins, since almost all of the other 15 members of the European Union also wanted to keep their own emblems. British satisfaction stems from the euro's sub-unit being dubbed the cent.

The name, derived from Latin, was brought to the modern world with the American dollar, and is thus deemed English. Although pronounceable in most of the EU's 11 official languages, it sounds clumsy in many and poses a special problem for Britain's old adversary and guardian of Euro-ideology, France.

Ministers had barely baptised the cent in the august surroundings of Verona's Palazzo Giusti when the French were complaining about the confusion if they applied the word, which also means a hundred. "How will you know what it means when someone says something costs 'five hundred'?" a French journalist protested.

An embarrassed French Finance Minister came up with a solution. "For us, it will still of course be centimes," said Jean Arthuis. "Cent is the abbreviation of centime."

Eta hostage freed after 341 days

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID



Aldaya: anaesthetised and dumped in a wood

THE Basque separatist group Eta yesterday released an industrialist after holding him captive for 341 days, the longest of any of Eta's series of 76 kidnappings.

The abduction of Jose Maria Aldaya, 54, polarised the Basque region as never before. Thousands took part in almost daily demonstrations demanding his release. They had to run the gamut of sneering, stone-throwing separatists.

But the general relief at Señor Aldaya's liberation was clouded by a report from the Interior Ministry that more than £300,000 had been paid for his release. The sizeable sum will almost certainly be used to finance Eta's depleted

infrastructure and to buy arms and explosives with which to carry out further attacks.

"Señor Aldaya has arrived very tired, as would be expected when he got here under effects of what he had been given," said Ignacio Aluna, a Basque priest acting as spokesman for the family that owns a haulage business near San Sebastián.

Señor Aldaya had been given an anaesthetising injection by his captors before being dumped in a wooded mountain pass near the resort. He awoke at 1.30am and walked towards the lights of a nearby hostel.

At the hostel he telephoned his family and then the

Basque police. His two sons collected him from a police station and took him home.

Later yesterday morning a caravan of nine cars carrying Señor Aldaya's employees arrived at the family's large house in Fuenterria and gave him an emotional welcome. He is not expected to give a press conference until tomorrow.

Government sources say Eta deliberately held Señor Aldaya longer than it needed as a warning to other Basque businessmen who refuse to pay Eta's "revolutionary tax", a blackmail system used to finance their operations. It is estimated that since 1970 Eta has obtained more than £20 million from kidnappings.

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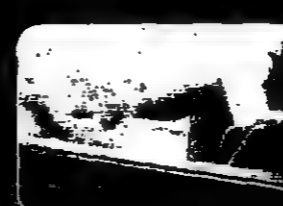
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BOOKS

Sebastian Faulks explores *The Fatal Englishman* in a superb new triple biography
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



FILM

Jean-Claude Van Damme, the "muscles from Brussels", is back in a new thriller, *Sudden Death*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

Richard Eyre stages Victor Hugo's *Prince's Play* at the Olivier Theatre
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

MUSIC

Lord Menuhin's 80th birthday is marked with a gala concert in the Albert Hall
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Brilliant Birtwistle

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on *The Mask of Orpheus* at Festival Hall

The joint BBCSO-South Bank Birtwistle festival-cum-retrospective could scarcely have enjoyed a more sensational launch than Friday's staging of his *Orpheus* opera, unheard for ten years - a shocking waste. The sensation lay in the very direct impact this enormous work made on a packed Festival Hall, an impact derived not only from the extraordinary originality of Birtwistle's vision, but from the clarity with which it was presented. At the Coliseum in 1986 it seemed a dauntingly "difficult" piece, one reason (apart from the expense involved in staging and rehearsing it) for its temporary disappearance. There is no point in pretending that *The Mask of Orpheus* is suddenly "easy". Peter Zimovietz's libretto is hugely complex, with its narrative time-shifts and reruns, its bursts of invented language, its rather flattering assumption that we know our classical mythology, its interpolated contextual footnotes. It is almost impossible to read but, like Handel's librettos, it "plays" very clearly. The music, inspired by rigorous numerological formulae and with substantial electronic content, is equally challenging. Some of it, as Paul Griffiths noted last week, is "loud, shocking and rude", but, as he reminded us, much of it is bewilderingly beautiful: a duet for two mezzo-soprano voices that would not be out of place in *Norma*, a little dance of Tippetian grace, a



Harrison Birtwistle with Jocelyn Herbert's mask for the 1986 staging of *Mask of Orpheus*

quent and helpful. Too little time to do justice to the heroic army of performers - to the calmly authoritative conductors Andrew Davis and Martyn Brabbins, to Jean Rigby and Anne-Marie Owens (Eurydice), to John Garri-

LONDON
ELVIS, Opening night for the revival of the 20-year-old tribute show *P.J. Proby* plays the Vegas Elvis, newcomer Alexander Bar is the teenager, and Tim Whittall (the teenager 20 years ago) now plays the Elvis in his prime. Positively no emphasis on the gorging on peanut butter and jelly torpedoes. *Prince of Wales*, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-589 5972) Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs 8pm; Fri and Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm.

JULIAN BREATH: The virtuoso guitarist, in a rare concerto appearance, joins the London School of Symphony Orchestra for an evening of Spanish music, including Rodrigo's popular *Concierto de Aranjuez* and Ravel's scorching *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. Meridian Davies conducts. *Barbican*, 200 Strand, EC2 (0171-498 8891) Tonight, 8pm.

DOWNTOWN PARADISE: Amanda Hurwitz and Richard D. Sharp play a Jewish lawyer and black activist on a murder case in Mark Jenkins's drama. Based on a true case and set in 1970 California, Sharp has just completed a film *Mission Impossible* with Tom Cruise and he was in the West End production of *Three Men in a Boat*. *Finborough*, Finchborough Rd, SW10 (0171-723 3825) Opening tonight, 7.30pm; then Tue-Sat, 8pm.

CHAPTER TWO: Tom Corli and Sharon Glass play unadorned New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best. *Finborough*, Finchborough Rd, SW10 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; then Thurs 8pm, Sat 8pm.

LA POLICE VITA: New David Glass production, derived from the French film that introduced us to *Le Gendarme*. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; then Apr 20 and 27, 2.30pm.

ENDGAME: Alan Armstrong and Stephen Delaney play *Hamlet* and *Claw* in Katie Mitchell's production of middle period Beckett. *Dresser Warehouse*, Earham St WC2 (0171-369 1732) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Apr 17, 7pm. Mon-Sat 8pm; then Thurs and Sat, 4pm.

LADY INTO FOX: Iniesta musical by Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Boonfield based on David Garrard's mysterious, chilling novella. Final week. *Lyric*, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm; then Sat, 4.30pm.

THE LAST ROMANTICS: Maggie Bland, Mark Kingston and Robert Lupton play the last of the great one-time literary gang. *Lyric*, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm; then Sat, 4.30pm.

THE PRINCE'S PLAY: Ken Scott plays the Reginald role in Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* transposed to Victorian London by Tony Harrison, with the Prince of Wales as the cool philosopher Richard Eym. *National* (Oxford), South Bank, SE1 (0171-326 2232) Now previewing Thurs, 7.15pm; opens Apr 19, 7pm. In rep. (0171-369 1734).

THAT GOOD NIGHT: New N.J. Crip thriller on the set with Donald Sinden as a veteran film director trying to make peace with his estranged son. Edward Hall directs a company that includes Lucy Fleming and Nigel Davenport. *Richmond*, The Green, Richmond (0181-840 0088) One week only from tonight, 7.45pm; then Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE
BIRMINGHAM: The sought-after tenor Jose Carreras gives what promises to be a memorable concert to mark the Birmingham City 100th birthday. *Lorenzo* (the tenor) will be accompanied by the Birmingham City Orchestra. *Symphony Hall*, Broad Street (0121-212 333) Tonight, 7.30pm.

CHILTERNHAM: George Chakras, who won an Oscar for his role in the film *Side Story*, teams up with Barbara Murray in Charles Vance's adaptation of Thomas Mann's popular and passionate classic *John Eyre*. *Everyman*, Regent Street (01242 672573) Tonight-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8pm; then Thurs and Sat, 2pm.

EDINBURGH: The Shakespeare Revue begins a national tour following a critically acclaimed West End run. A lively evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. *assembled by Christopher Lacombe and Malcolm McKee*. *Finborough*, Finchborough Rd, SW10 (0171-723 3825) Opening tonight, 7.30pm; then Tue-Sat, 8pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Seats scarce available
■ Seats at all prices

■ PABSON An unassuming musical from Sandhurst, but Maria Friedman remarkably good as a virtuosic man-hunter. *Queen's*, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5893) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; then Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ THE PRINCE'S PLAY Ken Scott plays the Reginald role in Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* transposed to Victorian London by Tony Harrison, with the Prince of Wales as the cool philosopher Richard Eym. *National* (Oxford), South Bank, SE1 (0171-326 2232) Now previewing Thurs, 7.15pm; opens Apr 19, 7pm. In rep. (0171-369 1734).

■ THAT GOOD NIGHT New N.J. Crip thriller on the set with Donald Sinden as a veteran film director trying to make peace with his estranged son. Edward Hall directs a company that includes Lucy Fleming and Nigel Davenport. *Richmond*, The Green, Richmond (0181-840 0088) One week only from tonight, 7.45pm; then Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol **■**) on release across the country

■ BROKEN ARROW (15) John Travolta's nuclear weapons, Christian Slater tries to get them back. *Indica* (0171-434 4343) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; then Thurs 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm.

■ CITY HALL (18) Something's rotten in the city of New York, even with a young woman, with Michael Douglas and Emma Thompson. *Indica* (0171-434 4343) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; then Thurs 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm.

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Songs of innocents and experience

BRUCKNER'S Eighth is not only his greatest symphony but the Everest among all symphonies, and as such it provided a fitting climax to the London Symphony Orchestra's long Bruckner-Mozart series, indeed this country's first-ever complete Bruckner cycle. But a generous gesture by the LSO gave Thursday's final concert to the National Youth Orchestra - a confidence vote of which the young players proved themselves very worthy. Though the NYO's Bruckner did not reach the deepest spiritual depths plumbed during the series, its achievement was easily the most stirring: this performance found more than 150 teenagers responding to the work's

awesome demands with confident professionalism. The conductor János Füst, who plainly knows how to get the best from them, drew playing of warm humanity. Only the restless opening movement seemed a little loosely shaped. The ominously rolling Scherzo carried the orchestra's full-bodied sound. The giant Adagio brought out the best in the strings, by turns resonant, radiant and incisive. Throughout the performance the brass blazed impressively, and the woodwind solos were beautiful and helpful. Too little time to do justice to the heroic army of performers - to the calmly authoritative conductors Andrew Davis and Martyn Brabbins, to Jean Rigby and Anne-Marie Owens (Eurydice), to John Garri-

CONCERT

NYO/Fürst
Barbican

ENTERTAINMENTS

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The Royal Opera
Tonight 7.30 (Last Night) ARABELLA
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ILLUMINATIONS/SYMPHONIC
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Day one of our two-part series takes a hard look at the winners and losers in the new world of work

A survivor's guide to work

When five-year-old Sam grows up he wants to be a farmer. But the chances are he will be cultivating crops in a test tube rather than in the fields. Indeed, Sam will be fortunate to have a job at all, according to a leading economic forecaster, Jeremy Rifkin.

In his latest book, *The End of Work*, Rifkin argues that we are fast approaching a workerless world as increasingly sophisticated computers take over much of the labour performed by humans. In this brave new world of automation only a few people will be fortunate enough to enjoy paid employment.

Some of the greatest changes will occur in agriculture. The next 20 years should see the first fully-automated farm — where tasks from feeding the cattle to choosing when to harvest are performed by computerised equipment.

And by early next century chemical companies may have removed farming from the soil altogether. Instead, foodstuffs will be created in the laboratory. This means hundreds of millions of farmers across the globe face the prospect of being eliminated from the economic system.

Mr Rifkin, who is the president of the Foundation of Economic Trends in Washington, also has a pretty gloomy prognosis for other industries. He predicts that within the next 50 years, machines will replace human labour in the manufacturing and service sectors as well.

While robots will move onto the factory floor, so computers

THE FUTURE OF WORK



● Revolution in the workplace

TOMORROW

● What future for our children?

that can understand speech and read script will replace receptionists, secretaries, shop assistants, waiters, clerks and all kinds of other office staff.

Middle management is particularly vulnerable to job-loss as computer technology forces company restructuring. The result is massive unemployment among both blue and white-collar workers (something like 75 per cent of the labour force in most countries is engaged in work that is little more than simple repetitive tasks).

So what kind of career

options does this leave the student? Many analysts agree with Mr Rifkin's predictions about a shrinking blue-collar workforce. However, they also believe that the service sector will continue to grow. This in turn will absorb the unemployed created by the shrinkage in manufacturing and agriculture.

According to Professor Keith Sisson, the director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick University, one of the big growth areas will be in the care sector — in particular, the care of the elderly. Those involved in the establishment and running of residential homes should be looking at a future that is bright.

Mr Rifkin does acknowledge that some professions will survive this computer revolution, and indeed prosper from it. The key is their ability to use state-of-the-art software to process and control information, and the list includes research scientists, design engineers, civil engineers, software analysts, biotechnology processors, public relations specialists, lawyers, investment bankers, management consultants, financial and tax consultants, architects, marketing specialists, film producers and editors, art directors, publishers, writers, editors and journalists.

But even if you do not accept Mr Rifkin's grim predictions, there is little doubt that to survive in the job market in the future, employees are going to have to be flexible. "With the disappearance of the job-for-life people will need to learn skills that can be adapted



Desk-bound drudgery: repetitive jobs like Tony Hancock's in *The Rebel* are disappearing fast — but the end result may be massive unemployment

to wherever they work."

Says Professor Sisson:

So where does this leave today's students facing difficult career choices, or the anxious parents of even younger children like Sam? "The first priority should still be to do something that you would thoroughly enjoy, and not necessarily something that would end in a career," says Professor Sisson. "The other priority is to get some training in a general subject like management sciences, or a couple of years with a big company."

"Of course there will still be occupations where you will need specific skills — doctors, lawyers and the like — but unless you have a burning ambition for these, you would be better trying to get some good work experience. The important thing is that you learn skills that can be adapted to the field you are in."

JUSTINE HANCOCK

● *The End of Work*, by Jeremy Rifkin. Published by Tarcher/Pinam (£19.99).

A fit environment

Last century, fewer than one in a hundred people worked in an office.

Today, most of the working population spend their day surrounded by filing cabinets, moaning about the coffee machine and trying to find the paperclip.

Office life is a 20th-century phenomenon, but, according to a new book, many of us are working in inefficient, unhealthy environments that are not remotely cost-effective, leading to grumpy staff and equally gloomy profits. Judith Verity, co-author of *Eleven Steps to a User-Friendly Office*, says that sensible ergonomics can make the office both a cheerful and profitable place.

"In the past, a building used to be about status rather than whether it was the best building for the people inside," says Ms Verity. "Now we are realising that you need to make the office more helpful for the people who work there."

The authors spent years interviewing office staff and management to find out their grievances. Interestingly, the chief complaint was not about chaotic computers and erratic filing systems but about feelings of isolation and a lack of say in how their workspace was organised.

"Many people feel trapped at work," explains Ms Verity. "Technology has taken over from people and we have retreated from it rather than using it to improve our working life, and to make us more effective. You need to make staff feel, for example, that where they are sitting was where they would have chosen to sit."

In one open-plan office staff had been given partitions which they could put up around themselves. "Most people created little walls around their workspace, boxing themselves in. But as the weeks passed, the partitions gradually came down until they were totally removed. The point is that the staff needed to know they were there, but that they had made the decision not to use them. It made them feel they were given a choice," Ms Verity says.

Some basic questions that anyone setting up an office should ask are whether staff have the right tools they need to do the job and are comfortable throughout the day. Are the lighting and temperature right? Is the stationery readily

LIFE IN THE OFFICE

available? Computers and desk layouts aside, peripheral items can be the lifeblood of an office. At a large telecommunications company, the coffee machine was removed at a time when the department was buzzing with rumours of redundancies.

Staff who had previously traded gossip around the coffee machine retreated into their offices with their kettles and teabags and morale visibly sagged. Only after a man-

around the desks are not only ornamental but are good at soaking up toxins such as formaldehyde from the air.

Health and safety are also highlighted. "There are certain basic things any office manager can do to make sure the office is relatively healthy. Bad air circulation, overcrowding, irritating noises and poor temperature control all contribute to a bad atmosphere and more sick days." Ultimately, the authors recommend flexibility. "With all the changes in working patterns, a user-friendly office needn't be a traditional office."



The ultimate in peaceful offices: working outdoors

agement consultant visited the office was the solution found. "He said: 'Bring back the coffee machine. The coffee's awful but it was doing much more than supplying drinks,'" Ms Verity says.

She also offers tips on establishing an environmentally-friendly office: re-using envelopes, getting rid of disposable cups and stopping junk mail. And spider plants and creeping ivy dotted

Ms Verity says. "An office can be a place where staff check in only once a fortnight, and spend the rest of the time working from home or teleworking. The key is that it needs to be somewhere they feel safe and relaxed."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

● *Eleven Steps to a User-Friendly Office* by Judith Verity and Ian Elliot. Shirecore is published by Bloomsbury in May.

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Rewarding high-flyers could be a costly error

Winner takes toll

THE Irish elk, which grew antlers 12ft across, has something in common with today's top earners, according to an economist from Princeton University. Professor Robert Frank believes that the huge rewards now available to the top people in almost every field are a similar example of evolution gone awry, rewarding a few with disproportionate pay packets and sending the wrong signals to the rest.

Professor Frank, the co-author of a book published last year, *The Winner-Take-All Society*, told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that technological change is partly to blame. When we can all hear Luciano Pavarotti in stereo, lesser talents tend to be ignored; it costs just as much to make a record by a second-ranker as it does to record Pavarotti.

This trend, long visible in entertainment and sport, has now spread to industry, the City, the law and even medicine. Professor Frank said that since 1973, the top 1 per cent of wage earners in America had captured more than 40 per cent of all economic growth, and the chief executives of large companies now earned more than 220 times as much as the average worker, compared with 40 times in the 1960s.

The attraction of these lucrative jobs was tempting graduates to pursue "top positions" in law, finance, consulting and other overcrowded arenas, in the process forsaking



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

careers in engineering, manufacturing and teaching. In which an infusion of additional talent would yield greater benefit to society," he says. "As the rich get richer, more and more individuals are drawn into the pursuit of a limited number of superstar positions."

Simple greed is one reason for huge salaries, he said, but not the only one. Technology has allowed talented people to extend their reach, through better communications and transport. If you are rich and dying, and only the best doctor in the world can save your life, he can demand his own price.

The same applies to financial advisers for companies threatened by a takeover. In that case, only success matters, so huge fees will be paid to those who can deliver it.

In conventional labour markets, you might pay half as much for somebody who would do the job half as well. But that does not apply in these winner-take-all markets. Does the emergence of superstars in so many fields matter? It irritates the rest of us, unless we happen to belong to the elect. But to Professor Frank it has more damaging effects, because it sends the wrong signals.

"People are pathologically inclined to overrate themselves," he says. "So they all think they are going to reach the top. All we ever hear about are the successful ones — the many more failures are out of view. If the rewards were less spectacular, then maybe people wouldn't join the queue to earn them."



FEW societies are divided so rigidly as that of the honeybee. The queens lay millions of eggs, while the workers rear them. This rigid hierarchy is maintained by chemicals produced by the queen's mandibular gland. But workers also produce

Queen bees in hive society

very similar compounds — so what exactly makes a worker, and what a queen? In a recent issue of *Science*, a team from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and the US Department of Agriculture has

teased out the differences. The results show that both types synthesise their compounds, which are fatty acids, from the same starting point, stearic acid. But the queen's acid passes through an oxidation procedure which neither workers nor young virgin queens can manage. The result is a subtly different compound with very different effects.



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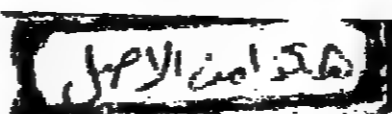
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Shifting into a lower gear

THE CAREER-BALANCING ACT

It is the middle of my working day. My four-year-old son is sitting at my feet playing with his toys as the CD on my computer pumps out *The Runaway Train* (his favourite).

Downstairs in the basement kitchen our lunch is cooking. Upstairs, I can hear the muffled sounds of my elder daughter squealing on the phone to a friend and the rhythmic thumps of my younger daughter practising her gym routine.

Outside the window of my office, I can see the daffodils breaking through the earth in the otherwise barren, toy-strewn garden.

All this probably sounds more idyllic than it is because the game my son is playing is *Go, Go, Power Rangers*, which involves him being the saviour of the universe and me being the evil alien Goldar.

I comfort myself, as I abandon work for the fourth time this morning and chase him screaming into the hall, that at least now-days we are friends. And perhaps as important I am my own friend too.

Three years ago this week, I gave up full-time employment. My life until then had been like a very expensive television advertisement for that most Eighties of concepts, "having it all". Nannies, Marks & Spencer ready meals, three cars (his, mine and the nanny's), Nicole Farhi suits, takeaways, 12-hour working days, overseas working trips, health club workouts, client dinners and, at the very end of my daily schedule, brief moments of quality time snatched with my children.

It was only when I reached an awkward impasse in my career that it even occurred to me that my life lacked balance. But when I finally left my job, sinking home with wounded pride and a redundancy cheque, I began to see the madness of my previous life.

The role of home-based mother/writer is much more satisfying than that of guilt-ridden career woman with children. And so much more cost effective (no nannies, Marks & Spencer ready meals, takeaways, Nicole Farhi suits...).

In America, they have a word for what I have done. They call it downshifting. Recently it has become rather fashionable. Several British publishing houses have commissioned books on "how to downshift", and there are signs that in the late Nineties more and more people will be rethinking their lives and opt-

ing for an existence in which work and home are more equally balanced.

What has precipitated the move towards what the Americans also term "voluntary simplification" is the increasingly obvious fact that as we creep towards the 21st century, the idea of a job for life has become outmoded.

As big corporations downsize themselves — making a vast number of people redundant and then "outsourcing" their labour — there is no such thing as job security. Moreover, for those left within large organisations, an increased workload coupled with a fear of redundancy has given rise to what Cary Cooper, Professor of Organisational Psychology at Umist, calls "presentism": men and women working 12, 13 or 14-hour days in their bid to be seen to be committed to a job they dread losing.

And out of this changing, working world has come the downshifting movement. Downshifters are primarily people who, after being made redundant, find they do not want to or are not able to opt back into full-time employment. Instead they create a different way of living. But they are also, increasingly, those workers who are so overstressed within their full-time jobs that they make their own decision to move away from conventional employment.

Downshifting has already attracted a degree of sneering derision from those who insist that it is just a middle-class elitist phenomenon. But by the end of the century, half of Britain's workforce is expected to be self-employed. Already five million people work from home. The Hersey Centre for Forecasting has predicted that by the end of the Nineties, a third of all workers will be based in their own homes.

Of course my own journey from career woman to Goldar, evil alien, has not been without its difficulties. Downshifters cannot expect to maintain the status they might have enjoyed when working in some grand organisation. The only obvious perk in my present life is being able to load the washing machine between phone calls and to sit at my desk in my pyjamas. No company car, no long expense-account lunches, no four weeks paid holiday a year.

And it can be difficult to adjust to the fact that you are no longer regarded as a real "player" by your former colleagues. A few weeks ago, when I met for lunch at The Ivy three friends who are still caught up in glamorous, clamorous working lives, it wasn't just my chipped nails, cheap suit and over-eagerness to grab the menu and eat (downshifters don't often go to restaurants) that gave me away. It was my reluctance to drink alcohol and the fact that I kept glancing at my watch to check I wasn't going to be late for the school run.



Jane Gordon swapped status. Marks & Spencer meals and designer suits for home cooking and quality time with her family

As I left them, still quaffing wine and gossiping at 3pm, they all said how "wonderful it must be to be able to be at home doing nothing". Recently, I was offered a job

opportunity which, in my old padded-shoulder careerist days, I would have grabbed. It involved a big salary, a fabulous package, high status and acceptable working hours. But I was only tempted for a minute. A haunting vision from my past returned to stop me. My younger daughter, then aged seven, sitting at the kitchen table at 3am dressed in her school uniform because she wanted to see me before I left for the office.

As a downshifter, I am probably working harder and having to juggle my life more than ever. But at least now I have full control of the balls.

JANE GORDON

Why we all need a proper role

RETIREMENT

WHEN Peter took early retirement from the advertising agency he got a shock. Even though at 54 he was sick of office politics, and had looked forward eagerly to getting out, when the time came he felt like a non-person.

The problem was symbolised by that question people always ask: "What do you do?" Peter never got it right as he fumbled answers about "used to be in advertising... retired now". With every such conversation, he felt more and more old. Every time the word "retirement" passed his lips, he would experience another small increment of age and weariness.

Within two months of retiring, Peter was scanning the jobs pages and desperately ringing up old contacts. All the hobbies which his wife and children urged upon him — golf, gardening, painting — seemed to him purposeless and unenjoyable without the background rhythm of work.

Simply put, his problem, in common with many thousands of others, is that his notion of himself as a person is based on just two things — job and parenthood. Now he is unemployed and his children are about to leave home. Suddenly, he is faced with the awesome question: "Who am I?"

Peter needs an answer to the question "What do you do?" This means that he needs a proper role — that is, to be needed by others in some practical way. Nobody needs him on the golf course.

Respect, status, daily structure and, of course, the companionship of shared endeavour. These are basic ingredients for human wellbeing. For too many of us these are tied to just one job in one company and if we lose that, we lose the lot.

After a year of "retirement", Peter found his role, status, structure and companionship. He went back to university to study archaeology and now works unpaid on archaeological digs: this summer he will spend a month in Turkey on a site.

He never uses the word "retirement" now, and says that its use should be as unacceptable for anyone under 80 as it would if applied to a teenager. It is a poisonous, debilitating word, he maintains, one which drags people down and ages them prematurely with its connotations of passivity. We have strong expectations for teenagers to develop roles, skills and careers. We should have similar expectations of those in their second adulthood.

IAN ROBERTSON

Are you sick of your job?

HOW TO TAKE CONTROL

Does the world seem rather drab? Are you lacking a sense of excitement, interest or achievement? If your answer is yes, then you are more likely to be in a low-status job with relatively little control.

This is the conclusion of a study of more than 10,000 civil servants in Whitehall, presented at a conference in London earlier this month by Dr Stephen Stansfeld of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London. The meeting, "Psychology of

Mood and Well-being", jointly organised by the Medical Research Council and Unilever, is recognition of the fact that the "feel-good" factor is essential not only for economic growth, but also for mental and physical health.

The so-called "Whitehall II" study is the successor to a previous study of civil servants. The first Whitehall study found that the lowest clerical grades had three times the death rate of the highest administrative grades over a ten-year period — a difference only one-third accounted for by smoking, obesity and high blood pressure.

So if bad habits are not the main killers of the working class, what is? One possible factor is control. Having control over your working life reduces your risk of suffering a wide range of illnesses. Answer these sample questions from a standard questionnaire to see how much control you have.

Do you have a choice in deciding what you do at work? Yes/No
Do you have a choice in



Reluctant commuters on the Tube

deciding how you do your work? Yes/No
Others take decisions concerning your work. Yes/No
"I can decide when to take a break." Yes/No
"I have a great deal of say in planning my work environment." Yes/No
"I have a say in choosing with whom I work." Yes/No
If you answered "Yes" to most of these questions, then you have high control over your work, and the chances are that you are in a relatively

high-status, middle-class job. If you answered "No" to most of them, then you are probably in a relatively low-status job, and are more likely to suffer a wide range of illnesses, because feelings of powerlessness depress the immune system and disrupt the cardiovascular system.

Of course there is more to life than work, and statistics give us trends, not laws. Dr Stansfeld's team found that the link between class and happiness was also related to how much social support people had outside work, how hard-up they were, and whether they had suffered major life-shaping events such as bereavement.

Do you have to stay in a lousy job? Millions do, but they do not all become miserable and sick. Get fit, learn to relax by taking up yoga or meditation, and start really talking to your partner if you have one. But most importantly, don't fall into the trap of equating your job with yourself. A bad job is a means to an end, not a statement about your worth as a person.

IAN ROBERTSON

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Matthew Parris



■ We are surrounded by millions of other lives — yet what are they to us, or we to them?

I was there on a visit and saw the weather. Stumbling ahead with Roger, in the pitch black, I saw that the track in front of us suddenly ceased to be solid, and leapt instead over stones, with a hiss and roar. After the rain, a torrent had cut the road. We stopped to let the others catch up, wondering what to do.

We were in deep forest: the Yungas of Bolivia where the Andes drop in warm wooded valleys into the rainforest. It was the end of a long and punishing day's walk, but we were still two hours from our destination. Darkness had overtaken us, and so had fatigue.

Everyone gathered, the silence of the tropical night broken by the rush of water.

What we did and how it ended is another story. Here I simply want to describe the next unforgettable moment. All around us the blackness was filled with an incredible explosion of pinpricks of light.

I suppose the fireflies had been visible before. But exhausted, heads down as we trudged, we had barely noticed. Now, we lifted our eyes to take stock, and it was as if a fireworks display had been organised for us.

On and on it went, tiny bombs of luminescence exploding in clusters around us. For a few seconds we forgot our troubles to marvel.

What is a firefly? Some sort of airborne worm, I guess. They say the light-show is a desperate and urgent quest to find a mate and breed before the insect dies. This frenzy of flashing, then, only appeared to be orchestrated. Really it was the coincidence of millions of lovesick fireflies each separately engaged in the greatest struggle of its life.

For each, a few evenings like this and it would all be over; for each, it was a solo, virtuosic display. For us, it was an extravaganza: an apparent symphony.

On the occasional stone around us lay already an insect glowing feebly, light falling, dying. And we walked on, talking out on a thousand intense private dramas and rounding each corner to a new burst of fireworks, a thousand new life and death struggles. What were we to these insects? Once when David lit up a cigarette, an amorously hovered, momentarily hopeful by the flame. Otherwise they were oblivious to our passage among them. They did not know about us, and they did not need to.

Tourism — and is our passage through the years anything more? — is like this. Briefly touching a million other stories, our own skins off their surface like a flat stone over water, using the tops of other people's waves to bounce from, never pausing for closer acquaintance lest we sink.

Sometimes I should like to stop — to freeze the frame — at the side of one dying firefly and know all about it: about its life, everything, from birth through illumination to darkness, its whole story.

Sometimes I glimpse from the window of my bus an Indian peasant woman with her llama, walking alone in the middle of nowhere, from nowhere, it seems, to nowhere; and I should like to stop the bus and know all about her. Where is she going? Who is she? What is her story? Perhaps, catching sight of my face in the window, she would like to stop her journey and know about me.

But we cannot. We must skim off each other in flight, or we would both sink. In the covered Indian market in La Paz, the women will not allow people to photograph them, seeing in the camera's flash an attempt to seize, to capture, to sink in. So it is, but the flash fails, capturing little. It becomes for the woman only the flash of a firefly, nothing to do with her.

We did arrive, at the end of that evening's walk, at our destination.

Sitting in the lighted doorway of the only open bar in the darkened town square of Yanacachi, we were no doubt observed over our beers by a hundred pairs of eyes through a score of windows: a temporary, temporarily lit tabernacle.

Just a flash, really, for them: strangers, gringos, soon gone, skimming off their lives as they skimmed off our story.

"Our" story? But who were we? Twelve people whose coincidence as a group was temporary, contingent. Our own stories ran together for ten days in Bolivia, diverged at Heathrow, and will almost certainly never converge again in that shape. How much did each of us really know of any other? Almost nothing. We had little time, no wish, to dive beneath the surface.

On our last night in La Paz, on Friday, we gathered for a celebratory meal in an expensive restaurant in the penthouse of a sky-rise hotel. La Paz is like a bowl, the poorer suburbs climbing the steep walls of the valley. At night, from our rooftop restaurant on the floor of this bowl, the lights of the poor twinkled all around. That night, however, in the middle of one of the walls of pinpricked light, there was a small black hole. Part of a hillside suburb of adobe huts had slipped in a landslide after the rain, killing 30 people, burying all their homes. Sipping our wine we speculated on whether the hole in the light was that suburb. Then the conversation moved on — those lives or deaths too just a flash for us, a passing flash of black.

In life's journey, we have time to do little more than skim the surface of each other

Peter Riddell listens to Tony Blair as he refines his approach to government with America's policy wonks

Tony Blair is at last coming to terms with the likelihood that within 12 months, or less, he will be prime minister. He remains cautious, privately as well as publicly, about not taking the election for granted. But his three-day visit to America dramatised the change in expectations among those whose business is power. He is now being treated as a prime minister in waiting. One result, so far largely unappreciated, is that he has clarified his strategy about what Labour would do in government.

Despite talk about forcing the Tories out of office, Mr Blair seems to be in no hurry. He has plenty to do — as Clare Short's characteristic candour over taxes showed yesterday — but he has the time and flexibility to do it. By contrast, the Tory recommitment to Thursday's by-election sound increasingly like a death rattle. John Major is yet again having to concentrate on survival.

One of the advantages of accompanying political leaders overseas — apart from the pleasure of seeing Washington at cherry-blossom time — is to observe them far more closely than is possible at home. Watching and talking to Mr Blair, I was struck not just by his ability to charm the business, media and Democrat elites but also by how surprised, almost daunted, he was by the degree of interest in his views. It is, for example, very unusual for both the Secretary of State and the Treasury Secretary to attend a meeting be-

Big government and the Anxious Middle

tween the President and an opposition leader.

When being driven to the airport to fly home on Friday evening, Mr Blair wondered how different his visit would have been if he had been Prime Minister. Surprisingly little, is the view of veteran Washington hands. He might have been given lunch at the White House. But the discussion would probably have been less interesting, since a checklist of the diplomatic business of the day would have dominated the meeting. There would not have been time for the exchanges on political and economic strategy that took place on Friday. These were vividly and aptly described by Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, as a "workathon", since both Bill Clinton and Mr Blair are, in the Washington lingo, policy wonks, fascinated by the details of policies.

Their discussion about how to deal with economic and social insecurity matched the central theme of Mr Blair's comments throughout his visit. Most of this was inevitably less

newsworthy than his claim that Labour is the party of the centre or the by-election result, but that does not make it any less significant in the long term.

Mr Blair believes the main challenge for a Labour government will be handling the increased pace of economic and technological change, and the resulting anxieties of people about their jobs, homes and pensions. He has been groping for ways to articulate this. As so often in politics, the message becomes refined not by a grand plan but by repeatedly arguing the case. In January, he floated the idea of the stakeholder economy. The Tories seized on the phrase to claim that Labour favoured giving unions statutory rights in business and the sort of radical changes in the structure of companies and the City advocated by the polemicist Will Hutton.

But Mr Blair has rejected this approach. He accepts the opening up of markets and does not believe they should be restricted, either through protection or through tighter legal regulation of companies. In New

York, he talked about not importing into Britain the rigidities of the labour markets and social security systems of some European countries. His differences with the Right are not over the value of competitive markets, but over the role of the State in ensuring that as many people as possible are equipped to benefit from economic change, notably by promoting training and skills. There is common ground with the Tories about, say, education for 16 to 19-year-olds, and about obtaining private finance for public projects. But the Tories remain wary about linking their specific initiatives into a broad strategy for attacking insecurity. They believe that economic growth will promote social cohesion, and are reluctant to present the State as having a positive role.

Mr Blair and Mr Clinton have similar views about the role of the State, in contrast to both the anti-government Right and the collectivist Left. The Clinton Administration last week, for example, proposed new measures to safeguard workers' pen-

sions and make them more portable; but it is dubious about the recent ideas of Congressional Democrats for tax and regulatory changes to create socially responsible corporations. There is a fine line between encouraging good practice and restricting the workings of the market.

But, as Mr Clinton pointed out to Mr Blair in their talks, there is the further problem that economic success may not translate into political support. The main beneficiaries of the global economy are those who have been and are likely to vote Republican. A challenge for centre-left parties, or those of the centre as Mr Blair now prefers, is how to ensure that economic success helps those who are likely to vote for them.

The emerging Blair message is, as Mr Clinton said in his State of the Union address, that while "the era of big government is over", there is still a role for government in handling change. There has been much interest among the Blairites, particularly Gordon Brown, in a new book by E.J. Dionne, a *Washington Post* columnist, called *They Only Look Dead: Why Progressives Will Dominate the Next Political Era*. Dionne's thesis is that "Anxious Middle" voters will reject the wholesale anti-government rhetoric of the New Gingrich revolution and accept a role for the State in making capitalism work for all. That is essential not only for the success of a second Clinton term, but also if Mr Blair is to have a long period as prime minister.

Mr Brown's secret package

Anatole Kaletsky assesses Labour's claims to economic prudence

Economics ought to be the trump card that guarantees Labour the next election. The years of Tory rule have included the worst two recessions since the 1930s. Even today, male unemployment in Britain is higher than in Germany, Italy or France. Real incomes have grown less since 1979 than in any other 10-year period. And with an unprecedented share of the growth going to the richest 5 per cent, most voters have done even worse than the average.

Yet after all the hardships of the Tory years, Labour leaders know that economics is still the issue that could lose them the election. Indeed, while polls show Labour leading on almost every other policy by 30 percentage points, the gap between the parties on economic management is a negligible 3 points — and ominously shrinking.

Despite their disdain for the Tory record, voters seem utterly unconvinced that Labour could do better. This is understandable, since Labour has virtually shrunk from setting the pace on big economic issues such as interest rates or taxes, not to mention monetary union (of which more later in the week).

On monetary policy there is virtually nothing to choose between the parties, which is fine if you believe the Tories have done a fine job of managing interest rates since 1979. The lodestar for interest rates will continue to be a "clear, low and tough" inflation target "consistent with the targets of other comparable countries". Gordon Brown has some worthy ideas for technical improvements, but in practice he will stick to the Tories' main target: accepting higher inflation would be a rod for his own back.

Mr Brown has also promised "a medium-term objective to raise the trend rate of economic growth", but this will be clearly subordinate to the inflation target. Like Kenneth Clarke, he rejects the argument that unemployment can be reduced only by achieving above-trend growth.

Labour leaders believe profoundly

that rising unemployment has been caused not by bad demand management but by Britain's structural weaknesses, above all poor skills and low investment. Labour considers skills and education to be the centrepiece of its economic policy. As for investment, Mr Brown believes, like the Tories, that the way to promote investment is to maintain low inflation and stable growth.

In principle, nobody could disagree. But what Labour leaders forget when they promise stability instead of "booms and busts" is that the Tories used exactly the same phrases — and still do today. No Chancellor has ever been more determined than Nigel Lawson to stick to stable objectives and to avoid booms and busts.

The trouble was that he got the objectives wrong: money-supply targets prolonged the first Tory recession, and currency targets caused the second. Perhaps the Treasury has now stumbled upon the perfect inflation target. But experience suggests that Mr Blair is no more likely than John Major to find the nirvana of permanent stability in a simple rule.

Turning to taxes and spending, Labour's willingness to follow in Tory footsteps is easier to understand, but could also cause trouble. Labour does not have an ideological commitment to lower taxes and public spending. But then Tory ideology has not achieved much by way of tax cuts or expenditure control. What Mr Blair does have is a strong pragmatic conviction that voters are unwilling to pay more taxes and that government must therefore live within its present means.

Although Mr Brown refuses to give figures, he knows full well that any increase in the standard rate of income tax or VAT would be suicidal. He has also promised to introduce a new 15 per cent lower tax band, to reduce the Tory tax on fuel, and to reform taxes on capital and utilities. The fuel tax will almost certainly be forgotten, but the lower tax band will doubtless be used in Labour's coun-



terattack against a pre-election Budget. To pay for this new band, as well as to make a gesture against the dramatic skewing of the tax structure in favour of the rich since 1979, Mr Brown will almost certainly raise the top rate.

Mr Blair has offered repeated reassurance that he wants "a system where people can become wealthy through hard work". But officially he has ruled nothing out, except the "punitive" tax rates of the 1970s. Formally, therefore, Labour could still announce a tax just below the 53 per cent top rate brought in by Denis Healey — which is why so many businessmen remain deeply suspicious of Labour and why Mr Blair may be making a tactical blunder in stalling on this issue, and so allowing the Tories to play on that distrust.

But even before Mr Blair speaks out, high earners can turn for reassurance to an unlikely source: the memory of John Smith. After the 1992 election débâcle, Labour leaders realised that high taxes can have an impact not only on the rich but also on those who hope to become richer. As Oscar Wilde said, "If I could buy people for what they are worth and

sell them for what they think they are worth, I would soon be the richest man in the world". Today, Labour's tax experts talk constantly about aspirations. But what does this mean in practice?

One safe prediction is that Labour will not try again John Smith's trick of abolishing the ceiling for national insurance contributions to disguise an increase in the top rate of tax. Without that subterfuge, a top rate of tax above the 50 per cent proposed in 1992 is almost out of the question. But a top rate below 50 per cent would not make much sense, since it would cause almost as much political furor for less revenue. So the real question is at what income the new 50 per cent band will bite.

A 50 per cent rate above £50,000 would raise £22 billion from half a million taxpayers. At £100,000, the revenue raised would be £1.1 billion, but only 110,000 people would be affected. The final decision will be primarily political rather than economic, since the revenue from a new top tax band is simply not big enough

to have much impact on the overall fiscal stance.

Assuming Mr Brown uses the extra revenue from high-rate taxpayers to fund his new 15 per cent band, he will have no leeway on public spending. He has loosely promised to borrow what he spends on public investment — and much tighter constraints will come from the financial markets and the Maastricht rules.

If the Tories deliberately understate public spending when they calculate the scope for 1997 tax cuts, and if Mr Brown feels compelled to match these cuts pound for pound, he could immediately fall foul of these constraints. His alternative is to pre-empt the Tories by announcing his own tax policies — and then to denounce November's Budget as an untrustworthy pre-election ploy. Without such boldness, a Duch auction of tax cuts based on fictitious spending plans is likely. If he waits for the Tories to set the agenda, Mr Brown should prepare for a fiscal crisis as soon as he opens the books on taking power.

Tomorrow: Education, employment and inequality.

Rock solid

ALTHOUGH he is infamous for making tactless comments while abroad — referring to the Chinese as "silly-eyed" and the Hungarians as "pot-bellied" — the Duke of Edinburgh has accepted an invitation to Gibraltar next month. While the Rock is a contentious destination for British royalty, he will be guest of honour, reasonably enough, at a gala dinner which celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Anglo-Spanish relations over the British colony have been ticklish since it was ceded to Britain by the Spanish in 1713, but the awkwardness has been exacerbated by allegations that drugs are being passed through Gibraltar. Last week the foreign affairs ministry in Madrid summoned the British Ambassador to deliver a strong protest over what it considers to be insufficient action against smuggling.

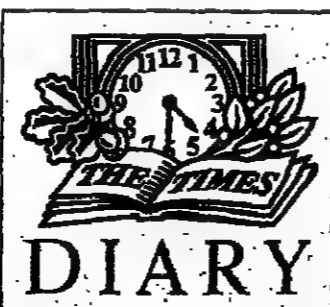
The Duke will surely recall with a shiver the fuss which was made in 1981 when it was announced that the Prince and Princess of Wales were to start their honeymoon in Gibraltar, at which King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain cancelled their plans to attend the wedding.

Gibraltarians will be pleased to see the Duke, especially since the Queen has not visited since 1954. Last year, Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, was outraged that the Princess Royal had felt unable to accept an invitation to the Island Games. Presumably he can now look forward to some Island Fun.

● Following my note about the alarming effect of all those York-



"I'll swap you one defector for Clare Short"



shire puddings and buffet-car breakfasts on the waistline of Norman Lamont (whose wife is appalled). I am happy to report that he is making compromises. He now has scrambled rather than fried eggs on the train north to Harrogate, where he is the Tory candidate.

Merry few

WHILE new Labour was trumpeting an overwhelming victory in Tamworth, analysts in Oxford were marvelling at one of the most miserable turnouts in British electoral history last week.

Just 11 per cent of the electorate turned out to return a new councillor in the central ward of Oxford County Council on Thursday. Only 313 rolled up in person, and another 410 votes were cast by post or

proxy in what is believed to be the first election in which absent voters have been in a majority.

I predicted that the whole affair would be a sorry one when I recorded that Labour missed the deadline for nominating a candidate and that the Tory candidate was a student who recently stood for Labour in university elections. The winner, racking up a whopping 373 votes, was Sushila Dhill of the Green Party. Oxford now finds itself unique among county councils in having a Green group. Under the terms of the 1986 Local Government Act, its two councillors must now wrestle to decide who will be the non-hierarchical leader.

Feathers fly

BARNESLEY's most famous son, the incomparable umpire Dickie Bird, doesn't like to be mucked around. He was unamused the other day when he turned up at the studios of *The Big Breakfast* to find that the transvestite comedian Lily Savage wanted to interview him, as is his custom, in bed.

"Do you know I'd only just got there and they wanted me to get into bed to be interviewed by a bloke. And he was dressed up like a woman: a big wig, make-up, nightie, the lot." Protestations from Savage that such hot-blooded types

as Frank Bruno and Gary Lineker had been in the bed fell on deaf ears. "I still wasn't going to get into that bed with him," said if he wanted to interview me he could do it like a man while I sat in a chair."

Documentary

TO CELEBRATE its centenary next year, *Country Life* magazine has agreed to let the cameras in for a BBC2 documentary, to be broadcast this coming Christmas. A film crew will start filming in June, and as befits the magazine's image, the several dogs which pad around the high rise offices in Blackfriars are



Mr Bird: no messing

sure to be given a high profile. The editor, Clive Aslet, says only one or two concessions will be made to the presence of the cameras. "We are really shy little creatures here," he whispers, "but we have bought lots of vases, which we will stuff full of flowers to make a good impression. I will also be consulting our fashion department to make sure my wardrobe is up to scratch and I'm practising Jeremy Isaacs-style tantrums."

● Currently on a tour of South America the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, thought of an apt gift for one of his hosts, the Argentinian Foreign Minister. The pair went to visit the Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil on Saturday, and afterwards Rifkind handed over a copy of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, carefully marking the famous fight scene between the detective and Moriarty at the Reichenbach Fall in Switzerland.

Quite contrary

DUBLIN is abuzz with rumours about whether Mary Robinson will defend her presidency of the Irish Republic next year, or whether she will step up to an even grander role.

A stony silence from the presi-



Mrs Robinson: here's to you

dential residence in Dublin's Phoenix Park has led to speculation that Mrs Robinson has her eye on a number of high-profile international jobs. She is remaining tight-lipped about her plans, but her trusted adviser, Bride Rosney, says the President will not stay on for a second term.

Mrs Robinson, who is only 51, has been tipped as a possible future UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and even as a successor to Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General. Wags in Ireland are already calling her Mary Mary Robinson.

P.H.S



ISRAEL AT WAR

Peres scorches the ground on which he wants peace

In the midst of the most compelling "peace process" in its history, Israel is at war again. Katyusha rockets hammer down on its northern territory, fired relentlessly from across the border with Lebanon. The Jewish state is girding itself for a prolonged and bloody battle with Hezbollah, the extremist Shia organisation sponsored, armed and funded by Syria and Iran.

This war is not at all like previous wars. Israel takes on its fanatical Shia foes from a position of strength; Israeli casualties, when compared with those of battles past, are remarkably small. Yet the sense of peril, as people in towns like Kiryat Shmona spirit themselves in their thousands to the safety of their underground shelters, is enough to indicate that this crisis far exceeds the ordinary.

Extraordinary, too, is the peril which Lebanese civilians face: Israel has put forward its iron fist, replying to the rain of Hezbollah Katyushas with a well-drilled fierceness of its own. Beirut has been bombed — for the first time in 14 years — as has the Bekaa Valley. Hezbollah bases and outposts are reported to have been hit, although none with convincing precision.

Inevitably, since this war has always been an unrefined one, Lebanese civilians have died. Most regrettably, on Saturday, the Israelis hit an ambulance in Tyre, killing a woman and children: the claim that a Hezbollah guerrilla was also in the vehicle will not have convinced the Lebanese that Israel had acted with due care and attention. And Tyre, the old Phoenician port, is already in the process of total evacuation, its residents having been warned to flee by the

Israelis in advance of an aerial and maritime attack.

If this all seems very unsavoury, there is also an explanation for it: Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister and successor to the rock-solid Yitzhak Rabin, has had no choice but to take retaliatory action against Hezbollah. The underlying morality of the aggressive exercise — and its correctness — cannot be open to question.

Israel must defend itself against external aggressors, be they hostile states or armed, religious terrorists, and Mr Peres is duty-bound to ensure the safety of the people in his charge. The heavy-handedness of the Peres response will, naturally, attract criticism. Even in a context such as Lebanon, where the enemy is not averse to operating from centres of heavy civilian concentration, the death of innocent non-combatants serves only to make the Israeli case more difficult to argue. Sympathy, however, is due to Mr Peres: his own record in office hardly suggests that he is blind to the plight of Lebanese civilians.

Mr Peres's vision for the Middle East has consistently been a humane one and no senior Israeli politician has a better understanding of the Arab world "on the ground" than he does. His Likud opponents in the forthcoming elections, while not the warmongering ogres of recent, liberal analysis, are much less likely to take Israel forward into a newer era than he is. For this reason, Mr Peres needs to make war on Hezbollah — and to win with conviction. But he must make this latest war with infinite caution, or he will scorch the ground on which he later hopes to sow a wider peace.

VERONESE VERITIES

Say no to a new exchange-rate mechanism

During the meeting of European finance ministers in Verona last week France led the calls for a punitive system designed to prevent EU currencies outside a single currency depreciating too far below the euro. In a perhaps unintended admission of the single currency's vulnerability to the operation of ordinary economics, the French representative, Jean Arthuis, said that plans for monetary union were reaching "a very dangerous stage". The solution, he added, was to stop countries outside flouting the rules, "polluting the system" and earning "unjustified windfalls". M Arthuis might have sounded menacing, but for two snags: his economics are nonsense and his threats will not work.

There are very few rules governing the conduct of states which choose to stay outside the single currency. If countries wish to join after the new currency has been created accept further rules, that is their choice. If M Arthuis thinks that the fragile ecosystem of the euro is liable to be polluted, then he might have the grace to acknowledge that the designers of monetary union should have worried about that problem before now.

Britain and Italy have certainly enjoyed some economic success since their enforced departures from the first version of the exchange-rate mechanism, but it stretches credulity to call this a "windfall". It stretches the concept of fairness beyond reason to suggest that governments might have to suffer as a result of events which they were unable to prevent. As Kenneth Clarke could have told his French colleague, sterling's expulsion from the ERM did damage to the Cabinet's credibility which hurts ministers to this day.

The feeblest of the threats waved in Mr

Clarke's face in Verona was the strict interpretation of the clause in the Maastricht treaty which insists that states wishing to join the single currency must first complete two years in the ERM. EU ministers or officials who hope to influence debate here by saying that Britain should jump back into the ERM without delay are either suffering from delusions or muddling Britain with another country altogether. With Sir James Goldsmith polishing his election machine in one corner and claims that more Tory MPs will defect to the left coming from the other, the Prime Minister is in no position to move an inch towards the ERM. Nor should he.

The Finnish Government has made a clear commitment to its own parliament that it will not re-enter the ERM; the Swedish Government is equally reluctant. The writers of the Maastricht treaty rightly acknowledged that EU exchange rates are matters "of common interest" but declined to provide the kind of powers which M Arthuis and his like seek. Artificially harmonious agreements between 14 countries such as emerged in Verona do a disservice to the important questions posed by monetary union by inflating the importance of general statements of intention. If a euro zone comes into existence, currencies outside may — depending on circumstances — be devalued against the new European currency. All that appears to have been agreed in Verona was that this should be avoided. The devil lies in the detail to come.

The drivers of the single currency train may like to say that they are picking up speed as they leave the station. But they have still not found a way to drag Britain, or any other country which does not wish to join the journey, towards the political disaster which monetary union represents.

SCOTLAND'S SCAR

The lesson of Culloden for the nationalists of today

A dark moor a few miles south of what is now one of Britain's fastest growing cities stands barren — bleak memorial not just to hundreds of brave men who were killed there, but the culture butchered with them. Culloden, just outside Inverness, saw the definitive defeat 250 years ago tomorrow of Charles Edward Stuart's pretensions to the throne. Success at Culloden underpinned the commercially confident rule of the Hanoverian monarchs. But the end of the Jacobite adventure led also to the dismemberment of the distinctive culture of the Scottish Highlands. A state grappling now with the problems of preserving diversity while embracing progress may learn something still from that difficult and poignant time.

Culloden, although a thousand shortbread tins might tell a different story, was not an English victory over the Scots but the final Hanoverian defeat of the Stuart insurgents. It was a clash between dynasties and cultures, not nations. More Scots fought for Butcher Cumberland than Bonnie Prince Charlie. But although not defeated, Scotland was changed for ever by Culloden.

Scotland's restlessness within the Union which had marked the arrangements first fifty years was replaced by a positive engagement. The second half of the 18th century was the age of the Scottish Enlightenment when some of the finest brains in Britain were in Edinburgh: from David Hume and James Boswell to Adam Smith and Robert Burns. The enlightenment gave Scotland a certain idea of itself: shrewd, sceptical and enterprising, that sprang from the predominantly Presbyterian and Whiggish Lowlands. But that

ascendancy involved suppressing the other Scotland, above the Highland line. A sense of the troubled other self has permeated Scottish literature since then, from the fearsome doppelgänger in Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* to Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

The Gaelic, Catholic, still feudal but sophisticated culture of the Highlands was brutally put down. Cumberland outlawed the haunting Gaelic language and distinctive highland dress, studded the glens with garrisons and decapitated the clans. The cowering of the Highlands led, in due course, to their clearing as lairds drove thousands off the land that had sustained families for generations and replaced them with sheep. It was, in the ugly phrase of another age, an ethnic cleansing.

Ever since Culloden the Highlands have sent their sons away. Many prospered in the Empire to which the Union gave them access. Now there is no empire; but the human tide has been reversed by time. A new generation of Highlanders, and incomers, are prospering at home.

Fish farming, forestry, sport and the telecoms revolution have woven a new pattern of rural working. Westminster governments have contributed to creating an atmosphere of enterprise and spent millions reversing Gaelic's decline with grants for broadcasting and education. The Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, has embarked on imaginative land reform to give crofters their own "wee bit hill and glen". The balance is still delicate but the Union which stimulated the Lowlands is now helping to sustain the Highlands its soldiers once scarred.

Alleged brutality to 'boat people'

From the Chief Executive of the Refugee Council

Sir, On April 18, the Malaysian Government will begin a mass deportation by ship of up to 2,000 Vietnamese who originally fled there from Vietnam as "boat people". They have been refused refugee status or settlement in other countries, and — although desperately unwilling to comply — have been told that they have no alternative but to return to Vietnam.

They are the last of over 250,000 Vietnamese who have sought refuge in Malaysia since 1975. It is important to pay tribute to the Malaysian Government for the honourable way in which, on the whole, they have responded to this humanitarian crisis. It is all the more important that the utmost regard should be paid to the safety and dignity of the remaining Vietnamese. Unfortunately, the Refugee Council fears this may not be the case.

We have recently received detailed reports about the methods by which Malaysian police have suppressed disturbances in a Vietnamese refugee camp near Kuala Lumpur. It is strongly alleged that on January 18 Malaysian police "aimed and fired indiscriminately" towards longhouses in the camp occupied by Vietnamese. One man died, seven others, including a 15-year-old girl, were wounded by gunfire. When the wounded were rushed out of the longhouse to receive medical relief, it is said that they were further beaten to unconsciousness by police.

Women and children who were not involved in rioting were indiscriminately tear-gassed, it is alleged, and 38 "ringleaders", having been badly beaten, were later made to confess their mistakes publicly and to encourage the rest to choose "voluntary" repatriation to Vietnam.

It is not too late for the Malaysian Government to set up an inquiry into these allegations. It is vital that the Government ensures that such methods cannot be used again in the crucial weeks to come. Hong Kong responded to similar allegations by setting up an independent group to monitor deportations. We urge the Malaysian Government to do likewise.

Yours etc,
NICK HARDWICK,
Chief Executive,
The Refugee Council,
3 Bondway, SW8,
April 9.

Caucasian conflict

From Commander David Childs, RN

Sir, Baroness Cox (letter, April 9) has done much to alleviate the suffering of the population of Armenia. Those of us trying to emulate her good work in Azerbaijan realise only too well that in this region suffering knows no boundaries — either national, religious or ethnic.

The facts are that 20 per cent of Azerbaijan is occupied by a foreign power, Armenia, and as a result one in seven of the country's population is either a displaced person or refugee living in appalling conditions. These people with terrible dignity graciously accept what aid they receive. It is not much.

The Azeris were not subject to an historic global diaspora and so, unlike the Armenians, do not have expertise in high international positions of wealth, power and influence. Their nation, and the region would best be served by their harmonious return to their homelands where many of their towns and villages have been devastated.

The successful accomplishment of that homecoming will depend on co-operation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which can only be achieved through conflict resolution and reconciliation. We, who are privileged to be in a position to offer help, must continue to do so with an impartiality based on present needs and future expectations and not past grievances.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHILDS (Director),
World Memorial Fund for
Disaster Relief,
Europa House,
13-17 Ironmonger Row, EC1,
April 10.

Watchers of the skies

From Mr Bob Mizon, FRAS

Sir, My heart went out to Mr Derek Duncan (letter, April 2, see also letters, April 5, 11) who was unable to observe any detail in Comet Hyakutake. From a dark place, the tail could be seen with the unaided eye to stretch across at least 40 degrees of the night sky.

If the Department of the Environment, whose current slogan is "Wasting Energy Costs the Earth", would agree to take action on waste upward light from indifferently aimed public and private lamps, Mr Duncan and millions of others who suffer from needless sky-glow might be able to see more of their heritage above.

Having written to *The Times*, Mr Duncan should now aim his ink at the DOE: I hope all other disappointed observers will do the same.

Yours sincerely,
BOB MIZON (Co-ordinator,
British Astronomical Association
Campaign for Dark Skies),
38 The Vineries,
Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset,
April 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conflict over sentencing proposals

From His Honour C. D. Chapman, QC

Sir, The Lord Chief Justice believes that a greater probability of being caught would be a greater deterrent than minimum sentences (reports, March 7, 8, April 13, letters, March 12, 19, April 11). I agree. What can the Home Office do to increase the chances of criminals being brought to justice, apart from making the police more efficient?

One of the most helpful measures which seems to have escaped their attention in all the numerous Criminal Justice Acts passed in recent years is a simple rule of evidence: to make the statement of a person called as a witness itself admissible in evidence.

At present, if a witness's testimony is contrary to his statement, he can be cross-examined to discredit him; but if the conflict is unresolved at the end of the day the judge has to direct the jury that his evidence is worthless. He cannot ask them to consider whether the truth lies in his testimony or in his statement.

Yet it is this question that is considered carefully by journalists and politicians when considering possible miscarriages of justice. It is discussed by them *ad nauseam*. The only persons not allowed to consider this elementary point are members of the jury.

Reform would involve a technical exception to the common law rule against hearsay, but an exception to that rule, first made in civil cases under the Civil Evidence Act 1938, has produced just results over the past 38 years.

Yours sincerely,
C. D. CHAPMAN,
Hill Top, Collingham,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire,
April 13.

Oxford's capacity to adapt to change

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, While at Harvard on a visiting lectureship, I have read Robert Stevens's strictures on American universities, with their "academic trivia and curriculum faddishness which pass for progress" ("Oxford is a special case", *Education*, April 5), as well as the letters which you published on April 8 about the Coopers & Lybrand report on Oxford.

One innovation here which has succeeded for a quarter of a century is interdisciplinary study. I am with the Harvard Committee on the Environment, a university-wide programme which, along with five other such interdisciplinary initiatives, has long been esteemed by both faculty and students. This contrasts with environmental activities in Britain: Oxford's effort is still beset with basic troubles. Cambridge has hardly ever got off the ground, Edinburgh's has been threatened with closure.

Yes we need environmental studies, if only because 4 per cent of Britain's GDP reflects problems of grand-scale pollution and the like. The environment is, by definition, a continuum; hence it can best be studied through interdisciplinary endeavour.

Because I specialise in being a generalist, I lecture at Harvard on biology, forestry, demography, economics and government, and in the Divinity School — much as I have at Cornell, Berkeley, Stanford and a number of other US universities which foster such interdisciplinary work.

Christians in China

From Mr Roger Aylott

Sir, My father, the Reverend W. Roy Aylott, was the last Methodist missionary to leave Wenzhou before the city fell into Communist hands, serving from 1929 to 1950 ("Charity blossoms where Red Guards marched", April 9). His last act before having to flee from the Communist regime was to leave the young pastors he had trained "in charge" of the church in the district. The events of the years spent in Wenzhou from 1935 leading up to his departure in 1950 are fully documented in his daily diaries.

After forty years of silence my father, brother and I visited Wenzhou in 1987 to find the church alive and well, and, what is more, ecumenical. The young pastors, now elderly men, had discharged the responsibility vested in them beyond my father's hopes and prayers. Christian faith and worship had been resurrected and emerged stronger than ever.

It is good to read that this is being sustained, and we could imagine ourselves sharing this wonderful Easter tide in Wenzhou. My father's ambition to establish a church self-governed and self-motivated by Chinese Christians in Wenzhou has been fulfilled.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER AYLOTT,
21 The Close, Norwich, Norfolk,
April 9.

Ups and downs

From Mr John Brown

Sir, Surely the club porter recalled by Mr Richard Vaughan-Davies (letters, April 5 and 11) meant that most gentlemen give more than the mean?

Sincerely,
JOHN BROWN,
The Town House,
Leigh, Worcestershire.

From Mr Peter Scrope

Sir, Those engaging in debate over the Government's White Paper on sentencing should bear in mind some pertinent facts.

During the last 17 years the prison population has increased by 25 per cent, from 42,000 to 53,000. In the same period the number of prison officers has increased by 76 per cent, from 14,000 to 24,700, resulting in a ratio of two prisoners per officer today compared to three per officer in 1979. Sixty per cent of all recorded crime is committed by just 7 per cent of offenders. Imprisoning this relatively small number of persistent offenders can have a dramatic effect on crime.

Recorded crime has fallen now for three years in succession — the only time this century that it has fallen for three successive years, other than during the First World War and the Korean War. The half-million fewer recorded crimes is the largest-ever continuous fall.

The recent rise in the percentage of crimes recorded is largely due, I believe, to the requirement by insurance companies that a crime is reported before a claim will be considered.

The number of police has increased by 16,000 since 1979 and funding for an additional 3,000 police has been made available (more than three times the whole of the County Durham police force).

Bearing these facts in mind, the Home Secretary's proposals would seem to be eminently sensible.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SCROPE (Conservative
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
for Darlington),
Darlington Conservative Association,
35 Grange Road,
Darlington, Co Durham,
April 12.

Could it be that these universities provide a niche for the cultural proclivity which Dr Stevens regrets is less than prominent in certain sectors of British academia?

Yours truly,
NORMAN MYERS,
Committee on the Environment,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass 02138, USA,
April 9.

From Dr Michael Brock

Sir, Dr Stevens says that Asian and American students come to Oxford "for the most part" because it is "one of the few research universities which take undergraduate teaching seriously". Long may it do so; but can that be the guiding consideration for most of these students?

Last year 74.5 per cent of the university's 529 Americans, and 67 per cent of all its overseas students from outside the EU, were studying for postgraduate degrees. The arrangements for Oxford's postgraduates are crucially important and Coopers & Lybrand are not alone in judging them to be a cause for concern.

In provision for students, excellent undergraduate teaching is not enough.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROCK
(Warden, Nuffield College,
Oxford, 1978-88),
11 Portland Road, Oxford,
April 1.

Hosepipe charges

From Mr P. G. Scott

Sir, Your article, "Water firms under pressure" (*Business*, April 3), states categorically that people who have been banned from using hosepipes are entitled to no payment from their water company. I would suggest that this is an incomplete statement.

While the domestic supply duty of the water companies does not include supply of water for customers to water their gardens or clean their cars with hosepipes or sprinklers, the water companies are charging consumers for the privilege of receiving water in standard and variable charges or specific volume charges for using hosepipes.

Thus, when a temporary ban is made without a drought order, under section 76 (4) of the Water Industry Act 1991, the companies are obliged to reduce charges. The sub-section reads: "Where a prohibition or restriction is imposed by a water undertaker under this section, charges made by the undertaker for the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus shall be subject to a reasonable reduction and, in the case of a charge paid in advance, the undertaker shall make any necessary repayment or adjustment."

While this is not strictly compensation, and will not apply under a drought order, it does provide a legal obligation on each company to make payments to charge-payers to reduce charges to take account of the bans. I believe that this applies in these circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. SCOTT,
Toller Beattie (solicitors),
Church House, Church Lane,
Barnstaple, Devon,
April 3.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

A proper note for the funeral blues

From the Reverend P. D. James, SSC

Sir, It has long been a feature of the funeral rite in East London that hymns are supplemented with popular songs. In my experience Sinatra's version of *My Way* would top any list (report and leading article, April 9). There is a potential conflict of sentiment between the lyrics and the message of the Christian Gospel.

In discussion with clerical colleagues two songs have emerged as possible theme songs for the final rite. Grace Fields singing *Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye* has an optimistic feel which would lift the funeral party. For the few remaining Anglo-Catholic priests perhaps Paf singing *Je Ne Regrette Rien* would encapsulate our sense of solidarity in the face of overwhelming odds.

I remain, with a song in my heart,
Yours faithfully,
P. D. JAMES Parish priest,
St Saviour's, Walthamstow,
210 Markhouse Road,
Walthamstow, E17,
April 9.

From Mrs J. D. Abell

Sir, Your leading article claims that "Meat Loaf, if he captures the tristesse of the assembled throng, is just as valid as Mozart". I suppose that in the same way an advertising slogan, if it is remembered, is just as valid as a Shakespeare sonnet, and a Mills and Boon romance, if its story is enjoyed, as *The Brothers Karamazov*.

This does not mean that such bubble-gum culture should be allowed to replace works of art.

If there is an afterlife, and in mine I catch my descendant playing pop music at my funeral (provided I get one), I shall know I have definitely gone to hell.

Yours faithfully,
JULIANA ABELL,
The Old Rectory,
Bransford-Belvoir,
Grantham, Lincolnshire,
April 9.

From the Editor of Early Music News

Sir, To do justice to funeral blues, Verdi's *Requiem*, which your leader alleges to have been played at "countless" funerals, requires four soloists, double chorus and large orchestra, and lasts nearly an hour and a half. I should be delighted if it were sung at my own funeral, but I fear for the patience of my non-musical friends, not to mention the hopes of my heirs.

The Verdi, by the way, includes a spine-tingling representation of the last trump, and ends with a whispered plea for deliverance from eternal death. I can think of many adjectives to describe the work, but "elegant" is not one of them.

Yours etc,
RICHARD LAWRENCE,
Editor, *Early Music News*,
Sutton House,
2-4 Homerton High Street, E9,
April 9.

Old soldiers

From Mr Patrick Bradley

Sir, On a recent visit to Belgium, I visited the Tyne Cot military cemetery near Ypres. I was impressed by the beauty of the gardens but distressed to see that the inscriptions on many of the individual stones are now fading. This state of disrepair was also evident at the Menin Gate, where the inscriptions on several of the stone tablets are now totally illegible.

Is the memory of these old soldiers being allowed to fade away? Or is any action being taken to restore these important memorials before they are completely lost?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK BRADLEY,
67 The Vineyard,
Richmond, Surrey,
April 10.

What's in a title?

From Mr Cedric Hayes

Sir, I have an idea that local government degenerated when town clerks became chief executives. Magistrates' courts now have them, abandoning the ancient and honourable title, Chief Clerk to the Justices; this is power-play writ large.

The plague spreads: of five signatories to the letter from countryside and wildlife trusts (April 5) one is styled thus; the others still, properly in my view, as directors.

Does not the title "chief executive" quarrel rather with the ethos of a voluntary, subscription-based wildlife organisation, and risk alienating its members?

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurlough Road,
Didsbury, Manchester 20,
April 9.

First blood

From Mr Martin Carter

Sir, I have just heard a sound like a cuckoo being run over by a lawnmower.

Could this simply be a record?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN CARTER,
Riversdale, Church Avenue,
Cadross, Dunbartonshire,
April 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 13: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening left Heathrow Airport, London, for Japan.

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 14: Professor Dr Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand was received by The Queen and remained to tea.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 14: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon arrived in Tokyo, Japan, where he will be received by His Majesty the Emperor (His Excellency Mr David Wright).

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Welcome Dinner at the Hotel InterContinental, Tokyo Bay.

Today's royal engagements

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a reception in aid of the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) Europe Association at Grosvenor House.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: Leonard Euler, mathematician and physicist, Basel, 1707; Friedrich Struve, astronomer, Altona, 1793; Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1800; Benjamin Jowett, scholar, London, 1817; Henry James, writer, New York, 1843; Bliss Carman, poet, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1861; Stanley Bruce, 1st Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Prime Minister of Australia, 1923-29; Melbourne, 1883; Bessie Smith, the "empress of the blues", Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1894.

DEATHS: Richard Mulcaister, author, Stanford Rivers, Essex, 1611; Hubert Robert, landscape painter, Paris, 1808; John Bell, surgeon, Rome, 1826; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American president, 1861-65, assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, 1865; Matthew Arnold, poet and critic.

Birthdays today

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 56; Dame Jocelyn Barrow, former deputy chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 67; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, civil servant, 65; Group Captain David Bolcott, vice-chairman, The Analytical Sciences Corporation Europe, 64; Professor Sir Michael Bond, Vice-Principal, Glasgow University, 60; Sir Adrian Cadbury, former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 69; Mr Tony Calvert, founder, the Terrence Higgins Trust, 40; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 58; Sir Richard Evans, diplomat, 68; Lord Geraint, 71; Lord Grey of Naunton, 86; Sir Tim Lankaster, economist, 54; Sir Neville Martin, conductor, 65; Professor C.D. Marsden, neurologist, 58; Sir Peter Menzies, former chairman, Electricity Council, 54; Mr Alan Plater, scriptwriter, 61; Mr A.P. Ross, former chairman, Joint Consultants Committee, 61; Earl Russell, 59; Sir Maurice Shock, former Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 70; Sir Leslie Smith, former chairman, BOC Group, 77; Mr G.H. Stafford, former Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 76; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 73; Miss Meriel Trevor, author, 70; Dr Richard W. Webster, former President of Germany, 70; Sir Douglas Wess, civil servant, 73.

Service dinner

The Cambridge Regiment (TA) The Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Regimental Club of the Officers of the Cambridgeshire Regiment (TA) held on Saturday at the Cadet Centre, Waterbeach, Colonel W.F. Page, President of the Regimental Association, presided.

The White Star liner *Titanic* struck an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage with the loss of over 1,500 lives, 1912.

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Unknown map throws new light on Battle of Culloden

Bonnie Prince Charlie 'led from the front'

By Magnus Linklater

A HITHERTO undiscovered map of the Battle of Culloden, drawn by a French officer who fought on the Highland side, has turned up on the eve of the battle's 250th anniversary. It has caused huge excitement among historians because it is the only known Jacobite drawing of the last battle fought on British soil.

The map, drawn in ink on a turquois wash background, makes at least one controversial claim. It shows Bonnie Prince Charlie, who led the Highland rising, starting the battle out in front of his troops, rather than watching from a hill behind the lines where most accounts place him. Three stars mark the positions he took up in the course of the fighting.

They show him, perhaps for propaganda reasons, placed in front of his men, then moving back out of the firing line, before taking up the final vantage point from where he watched the rout and massacre of his troops.

There is jubilation at the National Library of Scotland which acquired the map from an American source only last week just as it opened a new exhibition to mark the anniversary. The library will now be displaying not only the

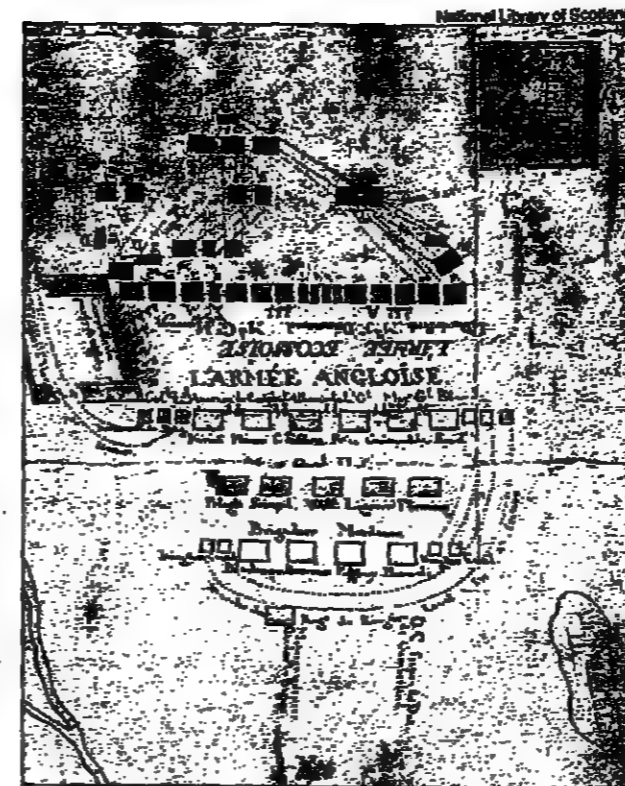
map but contemporary drawings, also recently discovered, of government and Highland troops, showing details of their uniforms and weapons, as well as a diary of Prince Charlie's campaign, kept by one of his supporters.

Dr Iain Brown, assistant keeper of manuscripts at the library, describes the map as "quite a find". The drawings, probably by a Jacobite opponent, are clearly intended as propaganda. They show the Highlanders as grotesque figures, draped in tartan, wielding broadswords and shields, or retreating in defeat. English dragoons, though faintly oish as well, are better armed, wearing superior uniforms.

The map has been given to the library by its American owner who says he had French ancestors with military connections. He says it has been in his family since



"Propaganda drawing of 'bombastic Highlander'"



Manuscript plan of the battle thought to be drawn by a French officer who fought for Prince Charles

the 18th century. The library, which is in no doubt that it is genuine, is at present unwilling to reveal his identity.

There has been no time yet for a proper examination of the map, which is in a delicate state. The French officer who drew it describes it as "Plan exact de la disposition des troupes Ecossoises sous le commandement de son ARCE (Alleses) Royale Prince Charles) et de celle des troupes anglaises a la bataille de Culloden". In other words, a precise drawing of the battle by someone who was actually among the rebels. The only other maps known to exist were compiled by Hanoverians.

It plots in great detail for the first time the position of cannon on both sides, showing the superior firepower of

the government forces. The battle marked the death knell of the Highland charge, a form of warfare which had made the clansmen one of the most formidable fighting forces in Europe. At Culloden the charge was torn apart by government fire before it could get under way; the attention to detail suggests that the drawer may have been an artillery officer.

The map also emphasises the significant role played by the Campbell who fought on the government side, thus earning the hatred of their fellow-Highlanders.

The uncomfortable fact that Scots fought on both sides in the battle is reflected in the title of the library's exhibition: A Nation Divided.

Leading article, page 19

Forthcoming marriages

Captain W.R.H. Barnes

Yellowley and Miss E.K. Kendon. The engagement is announced between Captain William Barnes Yellowley, The Queen's Royal Hussars, younger son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Barnes Yellowley, of Fife, East Sussex, and Emily, daughter of Mr David Kendon, of Fife, East Sussex, and the late Mrs Caroline Kendon.

Mr R.E.B. Bradley and Miss A. Moss. The engagement is announced between Robert only son of Mr and Mrs Richard Bradley, of Fife, East Sussex, and Allison, only daughter of Mr Stirling Moss OBE, and Mrs Michael Taylor, both of London.

Mr A.B. Greene and Miss C.D.M. Moore. The engagement is announced between Aubrey Basil Greene, of Ivington Park Farm, Leominster, Herefordshire, and Catherine Diana Molins Molins of Victoria Rd, Kensington, London.

Mr R.W.P. Kohler and Miss M.L.L. Coghlan. The engagement is announced between Roderick, eldest son of Paul and Rox Kohler, of West Horsley, Surrey, and Melinda, daughter of Tim and Liz Coghlan, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr A.J. McKinlay and Miss M.E.F. Halbert. The engagement is announced between Alexander, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Crawford McKinlay, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Miranda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Halbert, of All Saints Village, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Mr P.C.A. Moss and Miss F.Y.M. Laroche. The engagement is announced between Angus, eldest son of Dr Charles Moss, of Illogan, Cornwall, and Mrs Ligy Whittingham, of Penzance, Cornwall, and Florence, daughter of Dr and Mrs Bernard Laroche, of Nice, France.

Dr S.P.G. Padley

and Dr C.I.T. Hogg. The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Wing Commander P.G. Padley, and the late Mrs Elizabeth Padley, of Gayhurst, Buckinghamshire, and Claire, daughter of Rear-Admiral R.I.T. Hogg, of Barking, London, and Mrs Susan Rankin, of Barking, Lincolnshire.

Dr A.J. Slingby and Dr C.J.D. Bush. The engagement is announced between Andrew John, only son of Mr and Mrs John Slingby, of Redford, Nottinghamshire, and Cathryn Joanna Dryland, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Bush, of Warrington, West Sussex.

Marriages

Mr R.I. Holman-Baird and Miss P.S. Thompson. The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Nicholas, Longparish, Hampshire, of Mr Richard Holman-Baird, eldest son of Mr John and Lady Diana Holman-Baird, of Rickarton, Somerset, and Miss Polly Thompson, daughter of the late Mr Angus Thompson, of Kensington, London. The Rev William Robson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr James Holman-Baird, Camilla Bacon, Alexandra Townsend-Rose, Sophie Cole, George Harwood, Alexander Townsend and William Sturup. Mr Jonathan Grew was best man.

A reception was held at Hurlingham Park and the bride will be spent on the Galapagos Islands.

Mr K.M.M. Druce and Miss A.M.P. Lloyd. The marriage took place on April 13, in Dorchester, Dorset, of Charles Kenneth Major, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Druce, of Worcester, and Angela Maria Pina, daughter of Mr E. Anthony Lloyd, of Gibraltar and London.

Dickens memorabilia to be sold at auction

By John Vincent

A VAST collection of rare first editions, portraits and memorabilia relating to Charles Dickens and many other great literary figures, gathered over a lifetime by a Victorian bibliophile, are to be sold in London next week.

Included is Dickens's monogrammed pewter tankard — the one from which he may have been drinking when he was "stricken with death at his dinner table" on June 9, 1870 — and a cheque signed by him a few days earlier. The mug was given to Horace Pym, a London solicitor, whose collection is being auctioned at Sotheby's on April 23, by Georgina Hogarth, Dickens's sister-in-law, and is expected to fetch around £2,000.

Pym, who was an author and editor as well as a passionate collector, was a lifelong admirer of Dickens and, after the novelist's death, became firm friends with his family. Georgina gave him the tankard as a birthday present, to stand on his mantelpiece of his Kent home between a Samuel Laurence portrait of a bright-eyed Dickens in 1837 and its companion of the

following year, a portrait of Dickens's wife, Georgina's sister Catherine Hogarth.

The large house at Brasted became a shrine to Dickens and other literary figures. A unique copy of *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, containing an additional 182 illustrations, 34 of them watercolour drawings by F.W. Pailthorpe at the special request of Pym, has a pre-sale estimate of £9,000.

Among the most expensive of the 400 lots is a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds of the Anglo-Irish dramatist Richard Brinsley Sheridan. The picture, bought by Pym in 1879, is expected to fetch up to £20,000. Pym, who died in 1896, never met Dickens.

Pym's collection included Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli's despatch box, containing two letters from Queen Victoria, which is estimated at up to £1,500. The sale also features rare first or early editions of works by T. Anstey Guthrie, Pepys, Ruskin, Tennyson, William Makepeace Thackeray, Robert Louis Stevenson, Voltaire, Shelley and Charles Darwin.

Nature notes

Blackbirds are building their nests in bushes or thick ivy; the brown female does most of the work, but her glossy-black mate can sometimes be seen with a beak full of grass that he has brought for her to use. Starlings are building untidy nests in holes in trees, or under house or church eaves; woodpeckers are making their flimsy nests of twigs out in the bare branches. Summer visitors are slowly returning: the first cuckoos have been reported calling in the tropics, and common terns are making their way along rivers or up the coast, stopping to dive and fish as they go.

Several red-rumped swallows have been seen in the south of England; they have probably overshot the mark on their way up from Africa to Spain. Snowy-white flowers are opening on the blackthorn hedges; at the weekend, many of the bushes had real snow lying in their shadow. The first green leaves are sprouting in the hawthorn hedges, about a fortnight later than usual. Weeping willows, white willows and crack willows are all coming into delicate leaf. On the birch trees, there are hard catkins like birds' feet, but few green leaf-shoots out yet. DJM



The common tern

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS

BIRTHS

ACHESON-GRAY - On April 11th 1996, to Miranda (nee Wilson) and Colin, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

ELLIOTT - On 9th April 1996, at Musgrave Park Hospital, Taunton, to David and Sarah, a son, James William.

ELLIS - On April 12th at Bath Hospital Somerset to Linda and George, a brother for James.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE MACKAY BROWN

George Mackay Brown, OBE, Scottish poet and story-writer, died in hospital in Kirkwall, Orkney, on April 13 aged 74. He was born in Stromness on October 17, 1921.

A WRITER whose work was rooted utterly in the Orkney in which his life was spent, George Mackay Brown drew his inspiration from the harsh, unadorned lives of the people of that gale-lashed and sea-beaten northern outpost. Paradoxically, his earlier work sometimes showed the lush influence of Dylan Thomas, an influence which was at odds with his natural instincts and proclivities. But he soon learnt to pare away the adjectives to produce poems of a muscular gait which reflected the rhythms of Orkneyan life, with its fishing and its tilling of an unyielding soil.

The Bible, the Norse sagas and his Roman Catholicism (he converted in 1961) were powerful impulses in his work. As the years went by, it was sometimes said of him that the simplified saga-like style he adopted in his later verse, tended to militate against its poetic charge. If this be true then it was fortunate for Brown — as he himself appears to have recognised — that he developed a second string to his bow as a prose writer. If his novels had their critics, he was particularly admired as a writer of short stories which are strong in a sense of the timeless preoccupations of the people among whom he lived.

He was an enemy of the 20th century and looked on almost all its works with a sense of barely disguised horror. Some felt that as a result his poetry was not contemporary enough in its inspiration. But the fact was that to Brown historical and contemporary Orkney were one, so totally were the islands a part of his life and his mental outlook. The fishing town of Stromness, on the Hoy Sound, where he spent virtually his entire life until his final illness compelled his removal to hospital in Orkney's capital, was enough for him. In his work it was always "Hammavoe", its ancient name. It was his Laugharne, and the doings of its people provided a rich tapestry for his creativity to work on. Indeed, the composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies bought a cottage on Hoy after reading Brown's book *An Orkney Tapestry*, and later set some of his work to music.

George Mackay Brown was the youngest of five children of a post-man and part-time tailor in



Stromness. His mother, a Gaelic speaker, was from the Highlands of Scotland. He always attributed the mystical element in his work, which observers felt to be the least Orkneyan feature of it, to her. At Stromness Academy, where he went to school, Brown wrote poems from an early age (his first being an ode to Stromness). His health was never good; he contracted tuberculosis which left him with chronic bronchitis, and he did not at that time go on to higher education. For a period he was Orkney correspondent for a number of mainland papers.

He continued writing and was lucky enough to strike up an acquaintance with the older Orkney poet Edwin Muir, whom he met when he resumed his education at the age of 30, attending Newbattle Abbey College, in mainland Scotland, in 1951. Muir happened to be Warden there, and took a great interest in the work of his fellow Orkneyan.

Brown's first volume, *The Storm*, which was published in Kirkwall in 1954, showed him to be a poet of talent. But it was the influence of Muir that brought him to the notice of the wider world. Without telling Brown, Muir sent a selection of his

verse to the Hogarth Press in London and this led to the publication of his first major collection, *Loaves and Fishes*, in 1959. Though some of the poems in *Loaves and Fishes* showed lingering traces of Dylan Thomas, the best of them established him as a fresh, new voice, seen at its most characteristic in the unforced simplicity of:

Go sad or sweet or riotous with
Past the old women gossiping by
They'll fix on you from every close
An acid look to make your veins

Brown next went as a mature student to Edinburgh University where he took a degree in English in 1960. He went on to do postgraduate work on Gerard Manley Hopkins.

By the time of his third volume *The Year of the Whale* (1965) Brown had already become a convert to Roman Catholicism, and a deepening vein of religious seriousness is evident in the collection. Brown's feeling for, and natural delight in, the beauty of the natural world is frequently reined in by his taste for austerity. The biblical

temper of his mind continued to be indicated by the title of his next collection, *Fishermen with Ploughs*, a poem cycle set on the island of Hoy and describing the colonisation of Orkney by the Vikings, which was published in 1971. The title also expressed Brown's conviction of the abiding importance of the twin pillars of Orkney life — husbandry and fishing.

Some critics found it bare of ideas, rather than merely spare in its mode of expression. Yet a collection, *Poems New and Selected*, published the same year in London (and two years later in New York) gave the lie to the idea that Brown's creative vein had already been worked out, and enabled readers to savour the full range of his gifts. The opening lines of "Horsemen and Seals" are an example of the understatement yet deep love with which Brown views his fellow islanders.

On the green holm they built their church.
There were three arches.
They walked to the village across the ebb.
From this house they got milk.
A farmer cut and carted their peats.

On their rock
Fishermen left a basket of mouth-
ing silver.

In the meantime Brown had already begun to write prose. The stories in *A Calendar of Love* (1967) were admired for the simple beauty of the language in which they celebrated the power of earth, sky and sea, and the elemental island lives heroically battling down the centuries against that uncompromising backdrop. *A Time to Keep*, a second collection of stories, published in 1969, was praised for similar qualities and reviewers murmured of a new Turgenev. But Brown's first novel, *Greenoe* (1972) suggested that the longer form was not really his métier. It seemed palpably, merely a series of short stories stitched together. More puzzlingly, it abandoned the austere tone and structure of his finest writing, seeming instead to suggest a relapse into the rolling Dylan Thomas style prose poetry of his earliest work. There were further novels, among them *Magnus* (1973), the story of the 12th-century Earl of Orkney who became St Magnus the Martyr.

Brown also wrote a number of plays of which *Witch and A Spell for Green Corn* were produced at the Edinburgh Festival in 1969 and 1970. His opera libretto *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* was set by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and produced in Kirkwall, London and Santa Fe. Brown also produced a son et lumiere text, *A Celebration for Magnus* (1987), for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, and a further opera libretto for the composer was *The Two Fiddlers* (1978), an adaptation of the story by Brown.

Brown continued to publish poetry and short stories. His poetry and prose tended to converge in his later work. He was never a great creator of character in the tradition of mainstream novel and story writing, but rather an observer, a setter of scene, and a purveyor of bardic utterance. As civilisation marched on past him, its technical trappings eroding the empire of the imagination, he lamented a vanishing world with redoubled force. "We cannot live fully without the treasury our ancestors have left to us. Without the story — in which everyone living, unborn and dead, participates — men are no more than bits of paper blown on the cold wind."

Brown was appointed OBE in 1974 and had honorary degrees from Dundee, Glasgow and the Open University. He never married.

JACK SPRINGETT

Jack Springett, CBE, County Education Officer, Essex, 1973-80, died on March 15 aged 80. He was born on February 1, 1916.

NOWADAYS it is fashionable to denigrate local education authorities and easy to forget their record of achievement and the corps of distinguished education officers who worked for them. Jack Springett was one of these.

The son of a Windsor sign-writer, Jack Allan Springett was educated at the local grammar school before going up to read mathematics at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge. A Wrangler, in 1938 he joined the staff of Christ's Hospital, Horsham, where, apart from the war years, he stayed until 1947. He served in the Royal Signals and on the General Staff, mainly at the War Office and from 1944 to 1946, in Washington.

Springett entered educational administration in 1947 and served his apprenticeship with Barracough in the North Riding between then and 1952. It was a tough school but one which provided a fund of good stories — thirty years later he still used them to entertain and instruct friends and colleagues. This early grounding in Yorkshire was firmly consolidated during the subsequent ten years which Springett spent working for Lionel (later Sir Lionel) Russell in Birmingham.

The next move was to Essex in 1962 where Springett spent 18 years, first as Deputy and then from 1973 as County Education Officer. One of the largest counties, Essex, with its mixture of urban and rural problems, provided challenges which he relished. He quickly made his mark as he turned his razor-sharp mind to the complexities of massive building programmes, as well as to budgets and reorganisation plans.

Never afraid of precedents, he thoroughly enjoyed the scope for innovation which further education provided and he was especially involved in the early development of management education in the county.

As Chief Education Officer Springett was increasingly drawn into national affairs. He contributed in many ways as an education adviser to the Association of County Councils but it was perhaps in the arena of rate support grant and higher education funding that he was at his numerate

best. His interest in further education was reflected in his appointment as a member of the then newly-established Technician Education Council. He also served his fellow county education officers as chairman of their society.

Springett was widely respected in Essex. He enjoyed the confidence of the Education Committee and of his professional colleagues. He had prodigious energy, was a positive thinker and cared very much about children and young people. He was charming, sociable and totally unstuffy. His patience, although great, was not, however, endless and on occasion he would puncture an inflated ego or fail to suffer a fool gladly. All in all, he was an admirable chief and a welcome breath of fresh air in County Hall. He was appointed CBE in 1978.

In 1980, at an age when many would think it time to stand down, he made a surprise move to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities where, until 1982, he continued to be involved in educational policy at national level. In "retirement" Springett engaged in consultancy work; tutored for the Open University; was a founder director of the Chelmsford Cathedral Festival; and served as honorary director of WPF, Chelmsford, a counselling organisation. But he was also very much at home in his garden or in the painstaking restoration of a Victorian dining table. It was typical of him that he set about learning Greek before a walking holiday in the Peloponnese. He also became a talented amateur painter and in 1995 enjoyed the last of several painting holidays in Italy.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, whom he married in 1950, and by a daughter and three sons.



IAN SPURLING

Ian Spurling, ballet designer, died of a heart condition in Guy's Hospital on April 7 aged 58. He was born in South Australia on June 18, 1937.

IAN SPURLING loved to fill the stage with exuberant colour. Among his ballet designs were a whole series for Kenneth MacMillan that shone exuberantly through the Covent Garden proscenium arch, enlivening that staid auditorium with a burst of bright reds and blues and greens, the costumes decorated with unusual wit and more than a touch of camp.

Surprisingly, the man himself, at least in flamboyance, being quiet and shy with anyone newly met, unless they could draw him out through shared enthusiasms, such as his Bejartianesque delight in English architecture. During a career that sometimes progressed slowly, he had known serious hardship, supporting himself by the most menial jobs, but had shown courage and determination in gradually overcoming his problems.

He studied in Adelaide before coming to the Slade School of Art in London. Another Australian designer, Barry Kay, gave the 24-year-old Spurling his first important break when Western Theatre Ballet was preparing a programme of ballets from the between-the-wars period for the 1961 Edinburgh Festival and a London showing at Sadler's Wells. Kay, some five years older and already a known force, was in charge of

the design concept and provided an adaptable basic setting of rostrums within which he himself for Milhaud's *Salade*, Arthur Honegger's *Renard* and Spurling for *Well and Brecht's Seven Deadly Sins* were to work.

Spurling's colourful costumes proved attractive, likewise his idea of using large blocks, like outsize versions of a child's building bricks, to announce the individual themes. He was doubly fortunate in that this ballet not only proved the most successful of the evening (partly through the performances of Anya Linden and Clio Laine to dance and sing the two aspects of the heroine Anna), but also brought him together for the first time with MacMillan, his choreographer.

Spurling soon had two more small commissions from Western Theatre Ballet, for Peter Darrell's amusing rock ballet *Non Stop*, and for a comic trio of Edwardian bathers, *Valse Excentrique*, made by MacMillan for a gala. He had to wait until 1973 to get his work inside the Royal Opera House, with an enlarged version of *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

But that was followed the next year with Spurling's biggest hit, *Elite Synchronisations*, again from MacMillan. In this Spurling's costumes for the dancers, and for the on-stage orchestra, were so profusely decorated with stripes, stars, swirls and arrows (often pointing in naughty directions) that press comment varied from "harlequin-like" to a comparison with liquorice

allsorts. Widely thought, at its premiere, to be a lightweight novelty, the ballet has, in fact, been often revived at Covent Garden and mounted for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, the Bavarian State Ballet and the Houston Ballet.

Spurling enjoyed several further collaborations with MacMillan, most notably on *La Finta da Jour* (very between-the-wars, to a Ravel concerto) and the latest production of the Stravinsky *Dances Concertantes*. This was set among the Art Deco tiles and gleaming chrome of a municipal swimming pool — an idea prompted by Spurling's new-found delight in such architecture when his doctor advised swimming as helpful for a heart condition.

Other choreographers with whom Spurling worked were Jonathan Burrows for *The Winter Play*, inspired by folklore, and Matthew Hart for his recent *Peter and the Wolf*. He had been preparing designs for Hart's next work, with English National Ballet, when he suffered a stroke a few weeks ago and had to be admitted to hospital.

Spurling also designed operas, including Peter Maxwell Davies's works for children, *The Two Fiddlers* and *Cinderella*, and devised costumes for the rock singer Freddie Mercury. It was in ballet, however, that he made his most memorable contribution. He also taught, most recently at the Central St Martin's College of Art and Design, where he advised students on their work for the annual Peter Williams Design for Dance Project.



Darcy Bussell in an Ian Spurling-designed costume for *Elite Synchronisations*

Church news

Appointments
The Rev John Pinder, Rector, St Andrew's and the Church of the Resurrection, Farnington, to be also Rural Dean of Portsmouth (Portsmouth).
The Rev Graeme Rainey, Assistant Curate, Malby Team Ministry (Sheffield), to be Anglican Chaplain to the University of Reading (Oxford).
The Rev Christine Redgrave, Team Vicar, Bracknell Team Ministry, to be Priest-in-charge, Woolhampton w. Midgham and Beenharn Vale (Oxford).
The Rev James Rhodes-Wrigley, Curate (NSM), Whyke w. Whitboldswhyke and Portfield (Chichester).
The Rev Sean Robertshaw, Assistant Curate, Morley St Peter and Churchwell All Saints, to be Team Vicar, Upper Holme Valley Team Ministry, to work with the parishes of New Mill, Thurstonland and Thongbridge and to be involved with youth work within the Team (Wakefield).
The Rev Eileen Routh, Vicar, Woodnesborough w. Worth and

Staple, to be Vicar, Maidstone St Martin (Canterbury).
The Rev Jon Russell, Vicar, St Peter, Shorwell w. Kingston, Rector, St Olave, Gatcombe w. Chilton, and Rector, St Andrew, Chale, Isle of Wight, to be also Rural Dean of West Wight (Portsmouth).
The Rev Bill Sanders, Priest-in-charge, St Bridget, Waverley, to be also Priest-in-charge, St Thomas, Waverley (Liverpool).
The Rev Richard Smith, Vicar, St Thomas, Southborough (Rochester), to be Priest-in-charge, The Good Shepherd, Lake and St Saviour, Shanklin, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth).
The Rev Shirley Smith, Assistant Curate, Toton (Wakefield), to be Team Chaplain, Portsmouth Hospitals Chaplaincy Team Ministry (Portsmouth).
The Rev Richard Thomas, New Curate (NSM), Starnes and

Foreaside (Chichester).
The Rev John Thorogood, Priest-in-charge, The Camelot parishes Team Ministry, to be also Rural Dean of Brunton and Cary (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Dirk van Leeuwen, Chaplain of St Boniface, Antwerp, Belgium, to be also a Canon of Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral, Brussels (Europe).
The Rev Nigel Venning, Rector, Staple Grove, to be also Rural Dean of Tatum (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Penny West, Vicar, Kewstoke and Wick St Lawrence, to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.
The Rev Moira Wickers, Parish Deacon (NSM), Mild Team Ministry, to be Parish Deacon, Salsdon (Chichester).
The Rev David Williamson, Project Worker for The Children's Society, to be Youth and Children's

Adviser, with special responsibility for Taunton archdeaconry (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Keith Wood, Vicar, St John the Divine, West Worthing, to be Rector, Winchessea and Iddesham (Chichester).

The Rev Robert Wright, Vicar, St Mary, Porches (Portsmouth), to be also an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.

Resignations and retirements
Prebendary Terry Stokes, Team Rector, Wellington and District Team Ministry (Bath and Wells), to resign as Rural Dean of Tose June 1.

The Rev Alistair Sutherland, Rector, St George's, Barton-in-Rable, Vicar, All Saints, Thrapston, Priest-in-charge, St Winifred's, Kingston-on-Sun and Holy Trinity, Rufford-on-Sun and St Lawrence's, Goutham, and Diocesan Adviser on Industrial Society, and Chaplain to The Boots Company (Southwell), retired April 12.

LITTLE THEATRE "WHITEOAKS"

By MAZO DE LA ROCHE

The special risk taken by Miss Mazo de la Roche in choosing, among her novels, "Whiteoaks" for translation to the stage, was that the grandmother, being 101 years old and designed for domination, might run away with the play, leaving the rest of the Whiteoaks family with no life of their own. This difficulty has been avoided, partly because the drama itself has skillfully preserved her proper selfishness, but chiefly because two members of the family, Mr. Robert Newton's Remy and Mr. Stephen Haggard's Finch, are so represented that their vitality is assured. The result is a play which, though a trifle weak in dramatic impetus and too often dependent for its interest on the minor details of domestic

ON THIS DAY

April 15, 1936

The play *Whiteoaks*, which ran for over 800 performances, had its roots in the many popular novels about a Canadian family by Mazo de la Roche (1885-1961).

Life of the play is in Mr. Haggard's clumsy, shy, tautly-strung boy, even more remarkably — for here the obvious opportunities are less — in Mr. Newton's portrait of the elder brother, who is more fully revealed than any other character in the piece, and is continuously interesting to watch.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF STARS

FROM OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT
A Viennese Court has granted a separation order to a plaintiff whose wife had left him for the strange reason that he was born under a star unsympathetic to her own. The two had been happily married for 10 years, the husband having been given preference over two other suitors because he had been born on August 18, when the Lion was in the ascendant. This, as she had learned from his horoscope, predestined him to be an ideal mate for a woman who had been born under the Aquarius. But after 10 years the husband told the wife that his birthday was really August 28. She consulted the firmament and found that she could not possibly live any longer with a man who had really been born under Virgo, a constellation antagonistic to Aquarius. The Court gave a separation order, with the rider that blame for the rupture of the union rested with the wife alone.

RUGBY LEAGUE

24

Beaten Bulls rising to final challenge

GOLF

25

The day Faldo was left in Norman's shadow

CRICKET

31

Lloyd in search of England's missing spirit

SPORT FOR ALL

33

Playing a fall guy over the streets of London

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 15 1996

FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE AS FERDINAND STRIKES

Newcastle keep title race alive

Newcastle United 1
Aston Villa 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Blaydon Races are back on track again. Newcastle United, coming through an hour of suppressed tension at St James' Park yesterday, laid siege to Aston Villa's goalmouth, finally burst through, via Peter Beardsley's dramatic dash down the right and Les Ferdinand's uncompromising downward header, and so capitalised on Manchester United's slip at Southampton. They won for the sixteenth time in 17 games in their own fortress and to share this reprieve with them was like seeing blood throbbing back into the corpse that was their hope of becoming champions of England again after 69 years.

Thus the FA Carling Premiership is becoming an exhausting race not merely of the fittest, but of which famous United possesses the nerve and the courage to prove themselves worthy champions. "The secret I have just discovered," Kevin Keegan said moments after yesterday's close victory, "is to play badly and win."

Certainly, Manchester United's defeat at Southampton (who visit Tyneside on Wednesday night) gave us a tremendous lift, but then you looked at the table, you realised we had to win both of our games in hand and, this close to the end of the season, you realised that that is anything

Boost for Atkinson 26
Southampton on march 27
Derby on course 29

but easy. We gutted our way past Villa this time and I can only say that my lads had to show tremendous character to come through the tension and the fear that it is no longer any use trying to pretend it isn't there.

"David Barry has been nothing short of sensational since he walked into this club and I thought he led by example against an Aston Villa team which dominated us for long periods and which, let me tell you, are going to be there for the big prizes next season."

As ever, Keegan's honesty shines through. He is right to admit that his team were taut to the point of frozen with fear beneath a slate grey Newcastle sky, but, when the turning point came, it was down to management as well as the heart and soul of the players in their black and white stripes. For Keegan, pilloried of late for his stubborn refusal to abdicate the belief that cavalier football can actually win the title, had rearranged his team in the dressing room at half-time and had thrown them forward in a 3-4-3 formation that deployed Watson on the right of midfield and Elliott as a third centre back. Suddenly, after looking vulnerable in a cagey contest, Newcastle were flowing again, bearing down at Villa from all angles, all areas of the field, daring to win rather than fearing defeat.

It took courage. In the first half, Beresford had slipped six yards from goal and presented Yorke with the ball; Villa's striker from Tobago, such a predator this season, was taken by surprise and, though the angle was narrow, should have done better than hit the side netting. Milosevic, his Serbian partner, should have scored in both halves, missing with his favoured left foot from only a matter of eight or ten yards on three occasions.



Ferdinand drills his match-winning header past a helpless Ehiogu and Bosnich at St James' Park yesterday, reviving Newcastle's Premiership hopes. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

Shortly after Milosevic's third wasted opportunity, it became obvious how adventurous, or misadventurous, Keegan's forces still were. They had only Peacock and Albert back against Yorke and Milosevic, exposed to say the least — but the cavaliers prospered, for it was from this thrust to win the match that the break came.

Beardsley — Peter Pan as they call him — rolled back his now considerable years as he sprinted forwards on the right flank. He had performed throughout closer to his preferred role in central midfield, but now the green acres of space were there and his willingness propelled him forward. On the run, with the precision that he could patent, he picked out Ferdinand with a chipped centre that would have done full justice among the azaleas of the Augusta championship.

Bosnich, who had, up to then, done everything right in the Villa goal, blinked — you might, also, if you saw Ferdinand coming at you with absolutely no thought for physical safety — and in that blink of an eye, the forehead of the England centre forward met the ball and forced it over the line for his 28th goal of the season, the goal which reopens England's championship yet again.

Newcastle stand three points behind Manchester United, with a game in hand and with a goal difference of only two between the protagonists. They stand with their

nerves so clearly exposed that, in the 26th minute, Keegan, who spent his afternoon closer to the pitch than the dugout, attempted to shout instructions to his left back, Beresford. Beresford clearly shouted back at his manager and just as clearly Keegan, as he has before, gave no leeway to an abusive player. He substituted him with Elliott, who, as it turned out, was a more flexible friend to Peacock and the restrained Albert in defence.

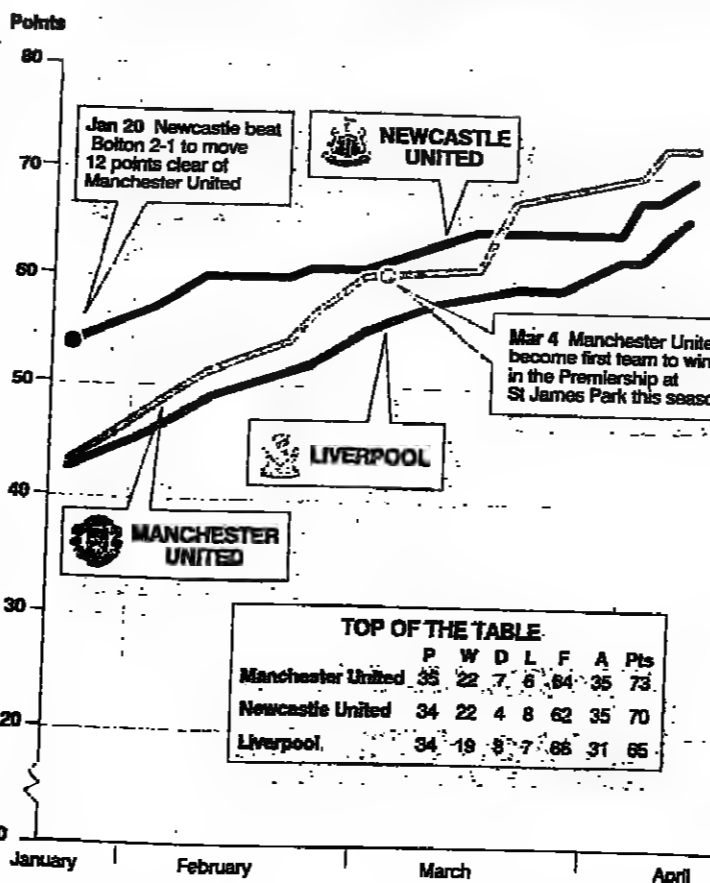
When all had calmed, Keegan said: "I told him what I thought he was doing wrong [leaving Charles with too much room to break down Villa's right], but the way he answered me was not the way any player should talk to his manager. He's done well for Newcastle this season, but Elliott has been pushing for a place. This lad [Elliott] has got guts and I had no hesitation in making the change."

The dispute should be forgotten quickly. Better to remember how manfully Barry strove, how lastingly Asprilla tried to trick and bemuse Villa and how hungry Ferdinand's goal breathed new life into a championship that will be remembered for decades to come.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Hiskop — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Beresford (goals: R. Barry, 25min) — R. Liss, P. Beardsley, D. Barry, D. Givon. — F. Asprilla, L. Ferdinand.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ehiogu, P. McDonald, A. Wright — T. Johnson (goals: R. Scannell, 80) — S. Milosevic, D. Yorke (goals: J. Joseph, 70).

THE TWISTS AND TURNS IN THE CLOSING STAGES OF THE PREMIERSHIP TITLE RACE



REMAINING MATCHES

Manchester United
Apr 17: Leeds United (a).
Apr 27: Nottingham Forest (h).
May 5: Middlesbrough (a).

Newcastle United
Apr 17: Southampton (h).
Apr 27: Leeds United (a).
May 2: Nottingham Forest (a).
May 5: Tottenham Hotspur (h).

Liverpool
Tomorrow: Everton (a).
Apr 27: Middlesbrough (h).
May 1: Arsenal (a).
May 5: Manchester City (a).

clearly enjoyed every minute of it, green jacket or no green

TOP-FLITE Tour Irons

THEY DON'T for Lee Trevino

THEY WORK YOU

Uneasy Rider forced to sit and wait for CBS

Good morning and welcome to this week's column. We should have five sentences with you any minute now, just as soon as my American colleague gets around to writing them. In the meantime, sit back, relax and enjoy highlights from a few columns I wrote earlier.

Not the most enticing of starts is it? But that is pretty much all poor Steve Rider had to offer as he presented the third round of the Masters from Augusta on Saturday night. He was there, we were there, but, sadly, golf came there none. The BBC's Mr Unflappable looked a little flapped.

"We're, er, just awaiting pictures from our colleagues at CBS," he explained, pointing out that full coverage was scheduled to begin when Norman and Faldo reached the

8th or 9th hole. The 'bad news' was that at that precise moment Norman and Faldo were making their way to the 5th tee.

So, in the meantime... we had just about every Augusta highlight the BBC could lay its hands on. Gwyn Sarazen still driving straight at 94, assorted holes-in-one from the par-three tournament on Wednesday, and lots of matey chat from Peter Alliss. Personally, I would have settled for extended highlights of Norman's record-equalling round of 63, but that is my fault for missing it on Thursday.

Any way, after about half an hour of inspired improvisation, Rider's American colleagues at CBS finally took pity on him. Normal service was resumed. But not for long. Less than ten minutes later Rider was back, the strain



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

beginning to show through that famous smile. "After that positive glut of live golf," he explained rather tetchily, "CBS are now on a commercial break." Judging by the frequency with which Rider returned for two-minute chats with Alliss, Alex Hay or Dave Marr, CBS spent a large proportion of the weekend on commercial breaks. But that, after all, is what you expect from American television.

But it is not what you expect from British television and, hard as both Rider and Alliss

tried to pin the blame for the obvious shortcomings in the coverage (it often seemed to be edited by computer rather than a human being) on the American host broadcaster, it was difficult to believe that the BBC could not have done better. The Masters — helped enormously by a time difference that delivers the best of the action during weekend prime-time — is one of the jewels in the BBC's sporting year. Even when Greg Norman has a six-stroke lead, the final round is still compulsory

Sunday night viewing. But jewels need polishing and the BBC's coverage of the tournament is looking badly in need of bit of love and attention — not to mention money — if it is not to be left behind. As the BBC's coverage of the Open Championship always makes clear, the corporation sets the highest possible standards for golf coverage. It should not settle for less from anyone else.

For the Ryder Cup last year, BSkyB showed what can be done with the constant interruptions of American coverage. In that case, pictures from Oak Hill were provided by NBC, but BSkyB brought in Tour Productions specifically to augment the American coverage and make it more palatable to British viewers. When it became clear that NBC would not be covering the golf

for three hours on the final day (it had a college football game to show), the satellite channel spent £500,000 installing 15 of its own cameras around the course. When NBC went off air, the difference was negligible.

At Augusta, when CBS was off air, so — pretty much — was the BBC. It appears to have taken three cameras to the Masters — one to train on Rider and his hard-working interviewees (Marr on particularly good form) and two to ensure that some of the home-grown also-rans got their moment of television glory. But for half an hour on Saturday night those cameras provided the only pictures of Norman and Faldo. In the circumstances, they did extremely well, but the point is those circumstances should not have existed.

Bradford's fightback augurs well for final

St Helens 26
Bradford Bulls 20

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IF SHOWTIME at Wembley on Saturday week lives up to the pulsating dress-rehearsal yesterday, when the first Wigan-less rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup final for nine years will be something to savour.

St Helens, seemingly runaway winners 24-8 up at half-time, crawled tired and relieved across the finishing line after a torrid second half to cling to the only unbeaten record at the top of the Super League.

Bradford Bulls had been meekly hurried into a corner, with all the one-sided fears that implied for Wembley. When they charged back in the second period, to St Helens' very near embarrassment.

The price for St Helens was the dismissal of Vila Matautia seven minutes from the finish, for use of an elbow on Knox.

Full results and league tables Page 34

The Western Samoa forward has a date with the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee on Thursday. Anything more than a one-match ban will mean him missing the final.

Sonny Nickle, too, could find himself in trouble. The Bradford forward was placed on report by the referee for apparently lashing out with his boot at Leatham.

Not that it was a spiteful encounter; far from it. More than any game so far in Super League, this one bristled with skill and a commitment that impressed Brian Smith, the Bradford coach. "It was tough, uncompromising, everything that rugby league should be," he said. "If you weren't suited by this game, there's no hope for you."

Smith was critical of his side's finishing, however. Five chances eluded them and three missed goals by the normally reliable Cook proved costly. In a space of five minutes, when trailing 12-24, Bradley lobbed an impossible

pass to the marked Scales, and McNamee and the otherwise admirable Lowes, with the tryline beckoning, fumbled the greasy ball.

Subsequently, Scales burst clear but was pulled back for an earlier offence, and Paul was cut down in full flight by Arnold's saving cover tackle, before St Helens' defence finally cracked again in allowing Calland his third try. To score a hat-trick and end up on the losing side spoke volumes for Bradford's effort.

St Helens, if they did not appreciate it beforehand, know that to get sucked into Bradford's driving, close-quarters forward game is something they do at their peril. On Wembley's wide acres, and with the pace in their side, they must look to stretch Bradford.

When they managed it in the first half, Bradford were overrun. St Helens were coasting after ten minutes. Loughlin and McNamee made a hash of Goulding's high kick and Arnold, 19 today, scored his tenth try in four matches.

Perrelli was involved in the next score, by Gibbs, then, in reply to Calland's first try, the Samoan prop, whose speed is as impressive as his power, covered 65 metres in eluding the final hapless challenge of Cook, the Bradford full back.

Scales squeezed in at the corner, but making up a deficit of 16 points at the break, after Newlove had scored from Huntie's acrobatic pass, looked beyond Bradford.

They were a side transformed, though, against one that felt the job complete. Huntie's vulnerability in defence was exploited by Bradford's kick-and-chase game. If just one of the later opportunities had been converted, St Helens might have been overhauled. Instead, they nervously held out, but Bradford will be far from discouraged.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Arnold, Gibbs, Perrelli, Newlove; Goals: Goulding (5). Bradford: Tries: Calland (3), Scales (2). ST HELENS: A. Huntie, D. Arnold, A. Gibbs, P. Newlove, A. Sullivan, R. Hammond, R. Goulding, J. Perrelli, J. Cunningham, A. Leatham, C. Jovai, D. McVey, C. Morley. Subs used: V. Matautia, I. Pickavance, T. Morris. BRADFORD BULLS: P. Cook, G. Christie, M. Calland, P. Loughlin, J. Scales, G. Bradley, R. Paul, S. McNamee, J. Lowes, A. Ireland, S. Nickle, B. Dwyer, S. McNamee Subs used: P. McKee, C. Hession, J. Donohue, S. Knox, R. S. Smith.



Sullivan and Newlove combine to keep out Scales, the Bradford wing, at Knowsley Road yesterday

Leeds acquiring that losing habit

Oldham Bears 25
Leeds 16

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DEAN BELL and Howard Wilkinson can slap consoles arms round one another as comrades in a common struggle, in a city in sporting torment.

Wilkinson said after Leeds United's latest defeat at Chelsea that, if he shouted "heads", the coin was guaranteed to come down "tails". On the end of a wrong refereeing decision, which hastened a fourth successive Super League defeat at Watersheddings on Saturday night, Bell, the Leeds coach, knew precisely what his football counterpart meant.

A fightback by Leeds, from 17-0 down to within a point of Oldham, came to a halt with the sin-binning of Gibbons. The full back, perfectly legally, stripped possession from Crompton, the Oldham scrum half, as he dived for the try line. John Connolly, the Wigan official, deemed it a professional foul, forgetting the new

rule allowing players to steal the ball in one-on-one tackles. It was an unfortunate decision from which Leeds, reduced to 12 players for ten of the remaining 15 minutes, never recovered. Maloney landed the resulting penalty and converted Crompton's second try for what, overall, was a thoroughly merited victory by Oldham in spite of their good fortune.

Bell, who has acquired Wilkinson's hang-dog expression, was more at a loss to explain his side's latest acquiescence. He offered apologies rather than excuses. "I can only tell the fans I'm working hard to put it right," he said, "but how much worse can it get? Not much more I hope."

Few could have foreseen Leeds and Halifax sharing bottom place with Workington, or that Oldham, after their hiding by Wigan on the opening weekend, would show the character that they have to go three matches unbeaten. Leeds would give a lot to fight now for the same determination.

Excellent support play put Atcheson, Patmore and Crompton through gaps in a hopelessly ragged Leeds defence in a whirlwind start. Half an hour passed before a muscular charge by McDermott caused the Leeds white flag to be put away. It prompted a try by Fallon, and Iro added two more, either side of the break.

Further chances went astray as Oldham put more backbone into their defence and Crompton, for a second time, had his decisive try, against the now depleted Leeds ranks, validated by video. For Leeds' sake, it was a pity that the television official cannot overrule a referee's mistake.

SCORERS: Oldham: Tries: Crompton (2), Atcheson, Patmore, Goals: Maloney (4). Drooped goal, Crompton. Leeds: Tries: Iro (2), Fallon, Goals: Maloney (2). OLDSHAM BEARS: P. Atcheson, A. Leath, A. Patmore, D. Abram, A. Bell, F. Maloney, M. Crompton, J. Gibbons, J. Clarke, J. Tenny, G. Laid, M. Morris, R. Vile, Subs used: P. Topping, J. Farnham, D. Bradbury, T. Nazzari, J. Edwards, J. Fallon, K. Vile, P. Hession, D. Gibbons, F. Cunningham, G. Holroyd, H. Howard, M. Shaw, M. Preece, G. Morris, A. Murray, G. Morgan. Subs used: B. McDermott, M. Golden, M. Schuch, S. Connolly.

Wallace scored the opening try, but they were eventually overruled by a parity Paris team before a partisan crowd of 6,534.

Pascal Bowmat, the wing, maintained his sequence of tries in three matches. Others were contributed by his fellow back, Regis Pastre-Courtois, and Greg Kacala, the Polish prop forward. Patrick Torille landed five goals to take his tally in four matches to 15. Paul Burns claimed a consolation try for the well-beaten visitors.

PARIS rule their roost

PARIS Saint-Germain are turning the Charley Stadium, the new side's home on the southeastern outskirts of the French capital, into something of a fortress. Sheffield Eagles were beaten there in the opening Super League game. Oldham were held to a draw and Workington were beaten 34-12 on Saturday.

Pierre Chaminon, the Paris captain and centre, was Workington's tormentor with a tryline. The Cumbrat side, one of three teams still without a win, led when N' Lark

Cyphers unravel route to final

WITH or without Andy Thomson, Cyphers, a relatively small club based in Beckenham, continues to set new standards in the English Indoor Bowling Association national fours championship (David Rhys Jones writes). Yesterday, at Milton Mowbray, Paul Butcher, Terry Heppell, Martyn Sekjer and Gary Smith powered their way into the final, defeating a useful-looking North Walsham quartet 20-6, and they are hoping to win the title for a record seventh time today.

Heppell, Sekjer and Smith were all involved in the club's previous successes, and although this is Butcher's first appearance in the team, he is a specialist lead in England's indoor side, and the National Players' Association champion.

In the final today, Cyphers meet Derek Dowson's Great Aycliffe quartet, who pulled off a great escape to pip Wey Valley, skipped by John Sussex. The Durham side stole the match with a dramatic double on the 21st end.

Sampson mars win

RUGBY UNION: England's 36-13 victory over Scotland in the colts international at Coventry on Saturday was marred by the dismissal of Paul Sampson (David Hands writes). The Otley full back, who trained with the senior England squad earlier this year, was sent off for punching during the second half, but nevertheless has been selected for the game with France in Chester this coming Saturday.

Few spectators saw the offence that was punished by the Italian referee, but England are optimistic that the dismissal will be judged sufficient. Sampson scored one of England's five tries and added 11 points with his boot. One change has been made for the match against France, Matt Perry, of Bath, replacing Josh Lewsey, of Wasps, at stand-off half.

Sampras returns to top

TENNIS: Pete Sampras, right, of the United States, became the world No 1 yesterday thanks to a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory over Michael Chang in the final of the Hong Kong Open. He overhauled Thomas Muster, of Austria, to return to the top of the rankings, despite Muster's 7-1, 6-4 win over Andre Agassi, of Italy, in the Estoril Open in Portugal.



Thomas's grand finish

ATHLETICS: Iwan Thomas set a Welsh 400 metres record yesterday. Thomas's 44.66sec for victory at the IAAF grand prix 11 meeting in Johannesburg ranks him behind only David Grindley, the British record-holder with 44.47sec. Derek Redmond and Roger Black among British athletes. Colin Jackson won the 110 metres hurdles and Darren Braithwaite the 100 metres.

Lewes upwardly mobile

HOCKEY: Bromley and Lewes secured national league status for next season in the inter-league event at Milton Keynes. Bromley, a founder member of the national league, defeated Oxford Hawks 2-1, while the ambitious Lewes club took a significant step up the ladder after a 3-3 draw with Ipswich. In the other matches, Weston-super-Mare beat Harborne 2-1 and Warrington drew 1-1 with Hampstead.

Vines through in style

SAILING: Ben Vines, the 1994 BT/RYA national marshall racing champion, won the first of six regional qualifying heats for the 1996 final at Royal Torbay Yacht Club yesterday. Vines, 22, from Southampton, defeated Martin Payne in the best-of-three final after gaining four wins out of five in the round-robin heats. Payne, and Steve Tylecot, in third place, also qualified for the final, in October.

Pierce secures final say

TENNIS: Mary Pierce, right, the No 7 seed, from France, and Irina Spilrea, the No 8 seed, from Romania, were surprise finalists at the Bausch and Lomb championships at Amelia Island, Florida. Pierce brushed aside Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-4 and Spilrea upset Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain, the No 2 seed, 6-1, 7-5 in the other semi-final.



England stage fightback

LACROSSE: England, trailing 3-2 at half-time, hit back to beat Scotland 11-3 in the women's home international at Edinburgh on Saturday. England were stunned when Fiona Reid put Scotland in front after only 22 seconds, but they came to life after the break, including scoring five goals in four minutes, and must now beat Wales at High Wycombe on Saturday to retain the triple crown.

England put championship at risk

David Hands considers the implications of the Rugby Football Union's isolation

Just when it would appear to need friends most, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) withdrew over the weekend from discussions between the four home unions over television rights to the five nations' championship, due for renewal next year. By doing so, it has created a rift with Scotland, Ireland and Wales to match that which already exists between the RFU and its leading clubs.

Talks resumed in a Dublin hotel yesterday, but there have been some suggestions that England's place in the 1997-98 championship is at risk. Yet the RFU decision to go it alone comes precisely when it is uncertain whether it can keep its best clubs and players, significantly weakening its bargaining position.

The RFU believes that, by negotiating individually with the television companies, it can achieve a better deal for English rugby. But its commercial advisers have also said that, by doing so, it can achieve a bigger cake with significantly greater slices for

each of the home unions than at present.

This argument was rehearsed in 1994, when the present television contract was agreed. The RFU says that England's audience is so much greater than elsewhere that it deserves a larger part of television money from the agreement to be ratified next year.

Two years ago English hopes — their opposite numbers might say greed — were swayed by a deal with Sky Sports. Each home union took 25 per cent of the £27 million agreed with the BBC but England had the lion's share of an additional £7 million contributed by Sky.

Now the RFU has been led to believe that, not only is it the five nations' championship that lures the television companies but, above anyone else, it is England's part in that championship that attracts

them. The potential fee has leapt from £27 million to £100 million and the on-going disagreement with its clubs has convinced the union that it must work independently.

"We don't want to hijack the five nations," we want to underpin it and support it," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said last night. "We are just trying to look after our own affairs." Nevertheless, were England, the 1996 champions, to be cast out of the five nations, it could mean the end of the championship.

The union has still to resolve its internal problems with top clubs and meetings are expected to resume early next week. The clubs have made public their planned schedule for next season, the significant difference from RFU proposals being the absence of any representative rugby below international level.

The clubs envisage a two-tier European competition, the premier one consisting of 20 clubs playing in four groups of five, home and away. Another 36 clubs would play in the secondary competition in four groups of nine.

"It's a club competition, not provincial, district or divisional," David, 41, of Bristol, said. "We would be prepared, in the case of Ireland or Scotland, to accept a group of clubs playing as Belfast or Glasgow but it is designed for clubs, and the money would go back to the clubs."

Pelow that the clubs envisage a 12-team English Conference, playing each other once, rather than the RFU's ten-team first division playing home and away. The top six clubs in England and Wales would also be involved in an Anglo-Welsh Conference (AWC) first division, divided into two groups, while the bottom six clubs in each country would play in an AWC second division.

Horgan to rescue, page 30
Dawe's dash, page 30
Savage that such hot-blooded types

Museeuw negotiates bumpy ride to victory

By PETER BRYAN

JOHAN MUSEEUW, of Belgium, the holder of the World Cup cycling road title, raised a gold plated cobblestone high above his head yesterday to celebrate victory in the Paris to Roubaix classic — the third round of the 1996 series — which will rank as one of the most memorable in the 100-year history of the event.

It was a race that lived up to its description as *l'enfer du nord* — the hell of the north. It was routed along unclassified roads and farm tracks which had 22 sections of cobblestones during its 263-kilometre distance, testing not only the endurance but also the balancing skills of the 200 starters.

Museeuw claimed a victory without precedent in recent years, marking a 1-2-3 for his Mapei team with his colleagues, Gianluca Bortolami, of Belgium, and Andrea Tafi, of Italy, free-wheeling over the finish line safe in the know-

ledge that they had gained more than a two-minute lead over their chasers during a breakaway that lasted 80 kilometres.

At one time, there had been four Mapei riders at the front, but Franco Ballerini, the winner last year, was plagued by three punctures and tailed off. He still managed to finish fifth, 2min 33sec behind Museeuw, who had not been without his own share of bad luck. Two punctures, the last with six kilometres to go, brought him to a halt, but his two companions slowed to allow him to rejoin.

Chris Boardman withdrew before the start of the final day on Saturday because of problems with the ankle that he injured in a fall in the Paris to Camembert race. Boardman is expected to race in the Fleche Wallonne and Uciec-Bastogne-Liege classics next week.

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MAY ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Mr Bird: no messing
A stony silence from the press

World No 1 knows first green jacket is his for the taking as final round gets under way at Augusta

Norman sets out on long march to victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

GREG NORMAN set out for the fourth round of the sixtieth Masters knowing that the green jacket that has eluded him in his 15 previous campaigns was his to lose at this sixteenth attempt.

Norman has been in stunning form here at Augusta National all week, widening his lead, two strokes at a time, from the moment he began with a record-equalling 63 until he was six strokes clear of Faldo, his nearest challenger, after three rounds. His lead at that point was the third largest in Masters history, behind Ray Floyd's eight strokes in 1976 and Severiano Ballesteros's seven in 1980. There was only one winner of a major championship within ten strokes.

Everything about Norman's game looked impressive as he became the first golfer in history to record five successive rounds in the 60s — his last three in 1995 and his first two this year. His drives were long and straight. He was playing within himself. He reached more than three-quarters of the greens in the regulation number of strokes. At 13 under par, Norman was within striking distance of the Masters' tournament record of 271, 17 under par, shared by Jack Nicklaus in 1965 and Floyd in 1976.

While others have struggled on Augusta's fast and furious putting surfaces Norman has had few problems. Though he three-putted the 3rd and 4th holes in his third round, of more significance is the fact that, over the last nine holes, he sank six putts of five feet or more.

Norman has been displaying some mannerisms that have not been seen before. One is to shake his left arm as if to loosen it just before he places it on his putter. Having done so, he appears to hold his putter as softly as if he is cradling a tiny, injured bird.

"On some putts, I hold my putter so softly I doubt I would even leave any finger prints on the grip," Norman said. He grips and regrips his club time after time, too, which is an obvious sign of nervousness.

"I don't think it has to be cast in stone that I have to win the Masters," Norman had said on the eve of the tourna-

ment. "We all would like to have things we've never had. I'd like to have more major championships. You just have to chase that elusive rainbow and that pot of gold at the end of it."

"If you get it one day, you feel a great sense of satisfaction. I am going to go to the 1st tee as relaxed and comfortable as I have been since the first day. I am going to enjoy every step I take."

Faldo was Norman's closest challenger but the man who was a byword for steadiness in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when he won five major championships, has lately become prone to one horrible hole. On Saturday, it was that six on the par-four 3rd hole, and it came at just the moment when he would have wanted to start putting on the pressure.

From that moment on, and particularly at the 12th, where Norman hit his first shot into Rae's Creek and might have lost two strokes of his lead, Faldo never seemed able to sustain a challenge. Only once did he have successive pars.

Faldo used to be able to produce one regulation figure after another, interspersed with a few birdies, but he had a real up and down round on Saturday — six pars, six birdies, five bogeys and one double bogey.

For Faldo to overtake Norman in the final round, he had to get a couple of birdies early on and hope that Norman would drop at least one stroke as well. "I've got to play my own game," Faldo said before setting out. "I'm a long way back. But, you know, anything is possible. It's all to gain and nothing to lose."

Phil Mickelson had as good a chance as Faldo. The young left-hander has a game that is suited to attacking golf, but for him to make up seven strokes was an awfully tall order. "Anything is possible and I don't want to rule out the improbable," Mickelson conceded. "It will take a 64 from me to do it."

"But, when Greg makes a mistake, he seems to recover immediately. Look at what he did after the 12th [in his third round]. He promptly birdied the 13th."

When he was at his best,



Norman was entering unfamiliar territory in the Masters yesterday. His six-stroke lead was the third largest recorded with 18 holes to play. Photograph: Gary Hershorn

Floyd had a stare that was intimidating to his rivals and made him seem oblivious to anything going on around him that he did not want to notice. He had that stare on his face for the whole of the last round of the 1986 US Open, which he won. Norman has had much the same sort of look in his eyes all week.

The *Augusta Chronicle* thought to telephone two local psychics to get a view from the paranormal about someone whose golf is far from normal. "Greg Norman is going to win this tournament," Madame Belle, a practising psychic for 25 years, said. "I just feel it. I

am not a golf fan. I hardly ever watch it, but I saw him on TV and there's just something about him that caught my eye."

The other psychic said much the same. She was given the names, birthdates and birthplaces of Norman, Faldo, Mickelson, Lee Janzen and David Frost. "Of those five, none has so strong an aura as Greg," she reported. "I looked through his spirit and he seems very determined."

"He has a great aura. He has a great field of energy to pull him through in anything he tries to do. His self-confidence and energy are so

high right now. The energy level range is zero to ten. Well, he's almost at that ten right now."

Norman once said that, when he turned 40, he still expected to play good golf for a good many years. He is 41 now, was the player of the year in the United States in 1995 and is considered to be the best player in the world by his peers. He is also ranked as such. He has won only two major titles — the Opens of 1986 and 1993 — but will never have so good a chance of adding to that total as he had yesterday, on another warm, sunny afternoon in Augusta.

SCORES AFTER THREE ROUNDS

United States unless stated, par 72		Love 72, 71, 74		Japan 71, 77	
203: G Norman (Aus) 63, 69, 71	208: N Faldo (GB) 69, 67, 73	218: J Nicklaus 70, 73, 76	F Funk 71, 72, 76	220: S Lowery 71, 74, 75	P Aunger 70, 74, 76
210: P Mickelson 66, 73, 72	212: D Weir 72, 71, 69	S McCann 70, 70, 72	D Frost (SA) 70, 68, 74	213: J Huston 71, 71, 71	S Hoch 67, 73, 73
214: D Duval 73, 72, 69	C Pavin 75, 66, 72	V Singh (Fiji) 69, 71, 74	L Janzen 68, 71, 75	214: F Nobilo (NZ) 71, 71, 72	I Wozniak (GB) 72, 69, 73
71, 71, 72	B Tway 67, 72, 76	216: M Calzaghe 71, 73, 71	216: N Price (Zim) 71, 75, 70	J Daly 71, 74, 71	C Slade 73, 72, 71
71, 73, 72	L Roberts 71, 73, 72	217: F Couples 76, 68, 71	B Lange 75, 70, 72	T Lehman 76, 70, 72	D
		218: B Faxon 69, 77, 72		J Haas 70, 73, 75	
		M O'Meara 72, 71, 75			
		221: C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 74, 75		J Leonard 72, 74, 75	
		S Simpson 69, 76, 76		R Floyd 70, 74, 77	
		B Este 71, 71, 76		222: H Irwin 74, 71, 77	
		A Ceika (Ger) 73, 71, 78		223: J Gallagher Jr 70, 76, 77	
		S Ballesteros (Spa) 73, 73, 77		L Mize 75, 71, 77	
		J Farky 75, 70, 79		Missed cut	
		147: T Watson 76, 72		F Zolner 74, 73, 73	
		J Sluman 74, 73		T Tryba 72, 75	
		T Aaron 71, 76		D Gilford (GB) 69, 78	
		148: M Brooks 76, 78		H Sutton 72, 76	
		M Crick			

Despairing Montgomerie fails to get the measure of Augusta



ANDREW LONGMORE
At the Masters

It is such a simple act, yet so utterly timeless and stunningly normal, not even the best paid marketing executive — and there are a few to choose from wandering the weed-free lawns of the Augusta National golf course — could come close to dreaming it up. What could be more mundane than helping someone to put on their jacket? When the jacket happens to be a rather daunting shade of green and the giver and receiver happen to be the old and new Masters champions.

At the Masters, tradition can too often be mistaken for petty officialdom. But the donning of the green jacket is in the best line of sporting symbolism, the handing on not just of a title but a heritage which has nothing to do with the litany of rules and regulations (no cameras, no autographs, no hard-backed seats, no non-official Masters cups, no running, no ...) which make the Masters the most policed event in the sporting calendar. Nor with the mere matter of the \$400,000 (about £260,000) first prize, but everything to do with the recognition of achievement, one champion by another.

The significant thing about the ceremony yesterday, which was actually executed twice, once for television, once for real — this is America, after all — was that momentary communion of champions. Ben Crenshaw, ever mindful of his duty, stayed on in Augusta after missing his cut on Friday, spending his last days as defending champion kicking his heels and waiting to perform that one final act which only lasted a matter of seconds. But it is an exclusive moment, only truly understood by the rare men who have known what it means to emerge victorious from the four-day joust with the fickle winds and marble greens of Augusta.

If any British player was destined to send their chest measurement off to the Hamilton Tailoring Company of Cincinnati, where the jackets are made from cloth specially chosen by the club, most predicted it would be Colin

winter on carrot juice. In the days leading up to the sixtieth Masters, the Scot seemed certain to be the most potent challenger from across the Atlantic, the most likely successor to the role-call of European winners which has included Nick Faldo, Severiano Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle, Ian Woosnam and Jose Maria Olazabal, and which has driven the Americans to distraction.

Yet to see Montgomerie after his third round on Saturday was to see a man suffering from a chronic case of incomprehension, the most dreaded disease known to a golfer. His round had included an eight and a two at successive holes, three over

and one under, in the space of about 20 minutes. "This is the most frustrating place I have ever played," he said, which is something, given that Montgomerie has a degree in the subject of frustration. "I can't understand this place. I am playing perfect golf and yet doing nothing. What am I supposed to do? How am I supposed to play this place?" The press had no idea either.

On the 15th, one of the most public spots on the course, Montgomerie endured an embarrassment which is usually the preserve of club hackers. It is worth recording, if only to give hope to every golfer on the planet. For four strokes, Montgomerie did everything by the book, laying up short of

the creek, pitching a little long, but safely, and dropping his first putt to within a foot of the hole. That was the easy part. His second putt rolled eight feet past the hole, the return missed as well and, from a standard par five, the Scot was plodding away with an eight.

His temper was not helped on the next hole, when his tee shot rolled to within three feet of the hole and only began to roll gently away from it when Montgomerie was walking towards the green. He made the putt anyway, but his relationship with Augusta could take some mending over the next few years, for all the promising start to his final round yesterday.

To prick the world No 2's ego further, Faldo's old grinding, relentless spirit has surfaced once more, just as he had predicted it would. This is what brought Faldo to America, the adrenalin rush of being in contention on the last day of a major, and his second round of 67, which lifted him within sight of Norman, was a gem, not flawless by any means, but tough with a hint of sparkle amid the stone. "It's nice to be back in the hunt," he had said afterwards.

He has been back to his prickly best in the interview room, too, giving short answers to long questions and suggesting to one journalist, who had innocently asked about the length of time he took to hit a pitch to the 12th on the third day, that he should try to play the shot sometime. "It was a difficult lie, on the edge of the cut grass, and I had to hit it from an uphill lie onto a green which sloped down. And it was the Saturday of the Masters. Does that answer your question?" he snapped before heading for the practice range with his hawk-eyed coach, David Leadbetter.

"It's just a matter of confidence," Leadbetter said. "He's hitting the ball really well but when you haven't been in contention for a major for a while, you lose confidence." Faldo has rediscovered the thrill of the chase and has clearly enjoyed every minute of it, green jacket or no green

SUCCESS IS A MIND GAME

Delight of Dell devotees masks deficiencies of off-colour Premiership pace-setters

Southampton united by leaders' disparity

Southampton 3
Manchester United 1

By DAVID MILLER

HAPPINESS, for some, is not a cigar, it is the incineration of Manchester United. It would be difficult to measure the depths of satisfaction, the glee, the relief, of Southampton's consuming 3-1 victory over the FA Carling Premiership leaders, United? You must be joking.

Southampton have this season been made to look poor by the likes of Reading, Crewe Alexandra and Swindon Town, never mind serious opponents. Yet, having lost five of their previous seven matches, the small-town team dismissed Goliath with David-like aplomb.

Sport exercises a strange power over people. The radiance at the finish on the faces of Southampton supporters was uncontained. Here, simultaneously, was the most desired, and, given the circumstances, the most unlikely result of the whole season. This single scoreline justified the cost of a season ticket.

Amid the celebration of a momentary triumph that makes escape from relegation

Full results and league tables Page 28

a pulse-quickenng possibility for Southampton, it was overlooked that Manchester United had given an abysmal performance. Only Schmeichel emerged with credit and even he made the error that presented Le Tissier with the third goal. Dis-United was the word.

At half-time, Manchester changed from a grey kit, in which they have never won, to blue and white. It made no difference. "When we were told in the dressing-room," Dave Beasant, the Southampton goalkeeper, said, "we felt good, because we knew they were desperately looking for something to change their luck."

In their first defeat since the turn of the year, United were without shape or substance. Most conspicuously, Giggs, inaccurate beyond belief and endlessly squandering possession — including a moment before the second goal after 23 minutes, which all but sealed the outcome — endured from start to finish the "nightmare" to which Alex Ferguson referred afterwards. "We can't be proud of our defending, it was terrible," Ferguson said. "They got about us, stopped the flow." The trickle, he might have said.

Bruce was made to appear clumsy in central defence; Sharpe, at left back — until



Graham Poll, the referee, keeps a close watch as Cantona gets the better of Magilton during Southampton's 3-1 victory over Manchester United. Photograph: Ian Stewart

replaced by May early in the second half, when Irwin switched to left back and Gary Neville from central defence to right back — suffered continual embarrassment against the threat of Dodd, Magilton and the roaming Shipperley; Butt and Keane, in central midfield, were pedestrian.

In front of this disarray, Cantona walked around, aloof and with hands on hips, as if to say that he wished to be no part of such ineptitude. It was not an impressive captain's performance, especially when he gestured at colleagues with Gallic despair. Within half an hour, indeed, the whole team had begun snapping at each other like a squabbling bunch of stray dogs.

As for Cole, he ran about energetically, in his bent-legged, unathletic way, but got no change out of Beani and Monkou, who was arguably man of the match. The other contender was Shipperley — there is no front-runner in the

League with a bigger heart. Afterwards, Dave Merrington revealed the profundity of his mismanagement this season, which has abetted Southampton's crisis. He had told Le Tissier, "who hasn't had a great season", to ignore everybody else and be a bit more selfish. That advice should ensure Southampton's relegation next season, if not this.

Le Tissier's selfishness, or rather his detachment from integrated teamwork, is one of the team's problems. Happily, it now did not matter because of the red-hot industry of Neilson, Dodd, Magilton, Venison and Heaney. Southampton found a team performance in the hour of greatest need, within which all the individual touches of Le Tissier were peripheral rather than central.

United had one early chance that might have directed the tide of the match their way. With nine minutes gone,

Cantona linked with Cole, who struck a perfect through pass diagonally behind Southampton's rearguard. Butt timed his run to perfection as Southampton hesitated, but his viciously-struck shot rose above Beasant's crossbar. Within three minutes, Southampton were in front.

From Le Tissier's free kick on the left, an inswinger, United's defence failed to react and Monkou was able to meet the ball with a bludgeoning header five yards out. Schmeichel made a stupendous reflex save, but Monkou drove the rebound home.

Now, Southampton had a real grip on affairs. Dodd and Le Tissier went close before Shipperley, taking Neilson's low cross in his stride, hooked sharply inside the near post to heighten United's discomfort.

If the leaders were to save the match, something had to come now. There was nothing there. Le Tissier drove a venomous shot at Schmeichel

and, two minutes before half-time, Schmeichel failed to hold a long, swerving cross from Shipperley as he lunged between his defenders. The ball fell at Le Tissier's feet and he calmly steered it home just inside the right-hand post of a now unprotected goal.

Scholes came out for the second half in place of Butt, yet, hard though he worked, he could not pull together United's frayed ends. For a quarter of an hour, Southampton continued to dominate and, although United made and missed three or four chances in the last half-hour, it was a performance that they will wish to banish from memory before they take on Leeds United at home on Wednesday.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D Beasant — A Heaney, F Beani, K Monkou, S Charlton — J Dodd, J Magilton, B Venison, N Heaney — M Le Tissier, N Shipperley
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, S Bruce, G Neville, L Sharpe (sub: D May 55min) — D Broome, R Keane, N Butt (sub: P Scholes 40), R Giggs — E Cantona, A Cole.
Referee: G Poll

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE				
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	35	73	+29	WWWWL
2 Newcastle	34	70	+27	LLWLW
3 Liverpool	34	65	+35	WLWLW
4 Aston Villa	35	62	+19	LDWWL
5 Arsenal	34	57	+16	WLWWL
6 Tottenham	34	55	+10	WLWLD
7 Everton	35	54	+16	DLWWL
8 Blackburn	35	54	+12	WLWWL
9 Nottm Forest	34	53	-2	WLWWL
10 West Ham	35	48	-6	LWDLW
11 Chelsea	35	48	+3	LDLLW
12 Middlesbrough	36	43	-11	DWWDL
13 Leeds	34	41	-13	LLWLL
14 Wimbledon	35	41	-12	WWDWW
15 Sheffield Wed	35	38	-10	WLWLW
16 Southampton	35	34	-18	LLWLW
17 Manchester City	36	34	-26	LDLLW
18 Coventry	36	33	-20	LLWLW
19 QPR	36	30	-19	DWLWL
20 Bolton	36	29	-30	WDLWL
Weekly change	Up	Stayed the same	Down	

Sad Leeds fail to strike right note

Chelsea 4
Leeds United 1

By ALYSON RUDD

LEEDS United are spoilsports, the sort that bring a karaoke machine to a party and leave as soon as someone plugs it in. Against Chelsea on Saturday, they fielded three central defenders with no wing backs, which could have heralded a free-flowing, attacking, Ajax-style flourish to the end of their season, but did not.

Palmer, McAllister and Speed contested a congested spot just in front of the defence. Brolin still lacks full fitness and was, therefore, completely anonymous, except when he required the attention of the physiotherapist. Kelly was so overworked that charity must have started a rescue fund.

"Life is not sweet at our place," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said. Bolton Wanderers might disagree — after all, Leeds will not be relegated — but, indeed, it is sour. The resignation of Leslie Silver, the Leeds chairman, simply added to the general doom and gloom. Once again, supporters called for Wilkinson to leave.

Fortunately for the stewards, only a handful really shouted for their manager's head and they were able, therefore, to escort them from the ground — on Glenn Hoddle's orders, it transpired. Of course, had 1,000 visiting supporters all chanted in unison for Wilkinson to be given the sack, they would have stayed to see out the game.

Wilkinson was calm, statesmanlike, frank, good-humoured — in short, a man

who has already made the big decision, although whether that is to leave, stay or move upstairs remains to be seen.

Hoddle's future is also the subject of speculation. He is touted as a successor to Terry Venables as England coach and still has not signed an extension to his contract as manager of Chelsea. Hoddle says that he cannot bind himself to a club that does not have a clear boardroom structure. A meeting at Stamford Bridge this week should explain what the true balance of power is between Ken Bates and Matthew Harding, actually means for Hoddle.

In the meantime, there is a limited amount of pleasure that can be gleaned from a victory over a team as glum and disorientated as Leeds and, really, the scoreline should have been more emphatic. Hughes notched the first Chelsea hat-trick in six years and Spencer scuttled through the Leeds defence before clinically beating the despondent Lukic. McAllister roused himself in the second half and slipped the ball under Kharine, and the final quarter of an hour was conducted at half-pace.

The contest did, however, give Gullit the opportunity to thank his supporters for voting him the club's player of the season by indulging in sporadic artistry that was so smooth that it looked like a trick of the light. The real trick, however, was how Leeds found themselves at Wembley this season and not Chelsea.

CHELSEA (3-4-2-1): D Kharine — M Lukic, D Low, A Lopez — C Baley, R Sanderlin, D Wab, S Minto — R Gullit, J Spencer (sub: G Peacock, 70min) — M Hughes
LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): J Lukic — G Kelly, D Wetherall, J Pemberton (sub: I Radaba, 37) — A Gray, G McAllister, C Palmer, G Speed, I Hinds — B Deane, T Brolin.
Referee: D Galloway

Ekoku keeps Crazy Gang in top flight

Middlesbrough 1
Wimbledon 2

By MARK HODKINSON

RIPPLES of excitement and incredulity ebbed through Middlesbrough's packed Riverside Stadium. Supporters shook their heads in disbelief, some were almost out of their seats. The thrill, lamentably, was vicarious and supplied exclusively by those wise enough to bring along a radio.

The FA Carling Premiership had gone mad. Southampton were three to the good against Manchester United before half-time. Chelsea were walloping Leeds United, and Blackburn Rovers, those habitual away-day losers, had gone nap at Nottingham Forest.

Strange, indeed, but, in the face of such eccentricity, Middlesbrough and Wimbledon, the patron saints of stoicism, remained steadfast. A leaden

show of frank but ineffectual endeavour was anticipated — and duly provided.

Even one of the men responsible for staging it was nonplussed. "I was bored with it; I'm sitting there bored, the fans are going to be bored as well," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said. "The work-rate was there, it always is with us, but we were sluggish and gave the ball away all the time."

At least Wimbledon had a game plan and were spared the cacophony of groans and insults that the Middlesbrough players suffered every time that theirs went awry. Without the ball, Wimbledon surrendered most of the pitch, but the blue are around Sullivan's goal was all but impenetrable. With the ball, they were fleet of foot and, in Ekoku and Holdsworth, they had the resolve that Middlesbrough lacked.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was pleased

with the result, but the siege mentality is likely to remain firm for some while yet. "We are criticised from here to kingdom come, but I think we play good football," he said. "I have to find players from the lower leagues, I cannot shop at the top." He listed the cost of each player in his team, the most expensive of which is Efan Ekoku, at £920,000. "The

whole lot cost about £4 million — that's less than Juninho's wages," he said.

Wimbledon scored first when Earle scrambled an excellent cross from Jones into the net. Sullivan saved magnificently from Pollock before Fleming equalised for Middlesbrough. The defender, 27 and 151 competitive games into his career, guided the ball exquisitely past Sullivan. It was, amazingly, his first goal in professional football. At least its assurance matched its rarity.

Barnby, six yards clear of the pack, was set to race towards goal, but the ball ran from his control. It was typical of Middlesbrough's busy but muddled play, where their midfield resembled a pinball machine.

Juninho was denied space, especially after the break, when Reeves, the Wimbledon substitute, was brought on specifically to haunt his every move. When the Brazilian did

receive the ball, it was usually deep in his own half, sometimes in the right back position. Wimbledon took the lead and secured the win when Earle passed to Ekoku, who had waited patiently for Miller to move before placing it beyond his reach.

The win effectively guarantees Wimbledon another season in the Premiership, but Kinnear hardly raised a smile. "If we had had a centre half this season and kept free of so many injuries, we could have been in the top six," he said.

"We can still ruffle a few feathers in the Premier League. The lowest we finished in the past five years is twelfth. See you all next season."

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): A Miller — N Pearson, B Vickers, P Whelan, C Fleming — N Cox, J Pollock, G Kavanagh (sub: C Freeston, 68min), A Moco — Juninho, N Barnby.
WIMBLEDON (4-3-1-2): N Sullivan — N Ardley, C Perry, A Pearson (sub: A Rowley, 45), A Kinnear — R Cunningham, R Earle, M Gayle (sub: A Clarke 48) — V Jones — E Ekoku, D Holdsworth.
Referee: G Ashby



Kinnear: shoe-string budget

Shearer cuts path through unguarded Forest

Nottingham Forest 1
Blackburn Rovers 5

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Frank Clark, the Nottingham Forest manager, paid generous tribute to the quality and resilience of Blackburn Rovers before this match at the City Ground on Saturday, he was clearly unprepared for the extent to which his words would be embarrassingly confirmed.

By adding five goals to the 7-0 demolition of his side at Ewood Park in November, Blackburn completed the most crushing double experienced by Clark.

"I'm just pleased we only play Blackburn twice in a season," he said. "I still can't grasp that we've lost 5-1 or how

we managed to be 3-1 down at half-time. It was basically down to poor defending."

Whatever the reason, Forest's outside chance of qualifying for the UEFA Cup next season has been virtually removed by a team still retaining such ambitions themselves. Clark described Blackburn's opening goal as "a comedy of errors" and criticised the way that his defenders attempted to play an offside trap near the halfway line.

Admirers of Alan Shearer will have seen it differently, praising the way that he made the chance for himself. Losing his marker by moving out to the left in front of Mike Newell's pass, he delayed his run to perfection to avoid a linesman's flag and give himself a clear run on goal.

It was the inspired moment that summed up the difference between

two sweet-passing teams. Forest's ability to finish off their approaches has been suspect since the enforced sale of Stan Collymore to Liverpool.

Blackburn, with Shearer having accumulated 35 goals this season, have no such problems. Further goals by Billy McKinnay, Jason Wilcox (two) and Graham Fenton, a substitute, were equally accepted with the kind of dynamism lacking in the efforts of Jason Lee and Kevin Campbell, who should have put Forest 2-0 up in the opening 20 minutes.

Ian Woan's curving low shot, three minutes from half-time, brought Forest hope at 2-1, but the first of Wilcox's goals restored the two-goal margin within a couple of minutes as Shearer turned provider with a superbly judged cross from the right.

"We were still in the game at 3-1 down," Clark said, "but, by the final

whistle, they had had 13 scoring attempts in two games against us and scored 12 goals."

The latest addition to Blackburn's armoury is the eager and energetic Fenton, whose two goals as substitute last week seemingly left Newcastle United's championship attempt on the verge of collapse.

Arriving in the 68th minute, when Forest still had the chance to redeem themselves, he supplied the hard-driven centre for Wilcox's second goal before completing the five-goal success by rounding the unfortunate Mark Crossley to score into an unguarded net.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lytle, P McGee, S Brown, S Chilton, C Cooper, S Pearce (sub: P McGee, 60min), S Chilton, C Cooper, S Pearce — S Stone, A Houldard, C Bann-Wilkinson, I Woan — J Lee, K Campbell.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Honery, C Coleman, J Kinnear — S Shearer, T Shearer, D McKinnay, J Wilcox — A Shearer, M Newell (sub: G Fenton, 64).
Referee: F Jones

Celtic keep up pursuit leaving Hibernian struggling

A KNOT of Celtic supporters remained behind after the 2-1 victory over Hibernian at Easter Road yesterday to cheer their heroes when they emerged to exercise on the field. Their team, too, are in the habit of sticking around. It is sheer doggedness that keeps them only four points behind Rangers in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, for they had to recover from falling behind here.

Hibernian, reduced to ten men when Love was sent off for swinging an arm into Van Hooijdonk's face after 39 minutes, retained surprising élan for a beleaguered team. Five minutes after the interval, there was even grandeur as McGinlay turned to sweep a left-footed volley into the net.

Celtic are fortunate in possessing a remedy for the ailment of a lost goal. There have been rumours that other clubs, including Feyenoord, will bid for Van Hooijdonk, but his present employers ought to recoil from the very idea. The forward's effectiveness in front of goal is the engine that has kept the club rolling smoothly.

The barracking of the crowd, for his part in Love's dismissal, left the brash Dutchman unperturbed, and his equaliser, headed in from Donnelly's cross after 68 minutes, was the work of a wholly composed footballer. The winner, nine minutes from the

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

end and his thirtieth goal of the season, required less finesse.

McStay sent Thom, a substitute, down the right wing and the German squared for Van Hooijdonk to tuck the ball home from close range. There was indignation among the Hibernian support, but television evidence suggested that Thom had been inside. In any case, there is more than a linesman's decision for people at Easter Road to trouble over these days.

As a challenge to the Old Firm becomes, in the League at least, ever more of a pipe dream, clubs search elsewhere for their reasons to exist. They do not have to look far, however, since the obvious triumph is to be found in the immediate vicinity. A football club can be warmed by the friction that comes when you rub up a rival the wrong way.

Hibernian, in the past few years, have had the satisfaction of feeling superior to Heart of Midlothian, but that has simply made the present role reversal all the more objectionable to supporters. In December, Hibernian were ten points ahead of Hearts. Now, after this defeat, they are 12 points behind them.

Nor is there enough civic pride in a football follower's heart for any Hibernian man to take pleasure in Hearts' progress to the Tennents Scottish Cup final. The spirit shown by their side yesterday will muffle the protests for a while, but it cannot end a debate.

Two new stands have been erected and modernised and equipped. A significant part of the funding for them is underwritten by Tom Farmer, the millionaire who rescued the club from bankruptcy in 1991. He has no known interest in football, does not attend matches and said that he bought Hibernian because he did not feel that the people of Leith should lose such a focal point in the community.

It is, though, a long time since anyone remarked on his philanthropy. Instead, supporters wonder why money cannot be spent on the side as well as the stadium. Farmer may retort that the facilities bring a return on his investments, but one might wonder for how long Hibernian can sell those suites once the football has gone sour.

Elsewhere, of course, cash continues to flow unchecked. Last week, Rangers held a four-hour meeting with agents acting for Gianluca Vialli. David Murray, the Rangers chairman, stated at the weekend that terms had been agreed for the Juventus forward. It is reported that Vialli would earn £6 million over the course of a three-year contract. He must now decide whether to join Rangers, who beat Partick Thistle 5-0 on Saturday, or Parma.

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Lloyd banks on restoring England's popular appeal

As reunions go, the get-together today in Kensington, which honours England's cricketer of the year, sounds pretty grim. The team's performance this winter was so tame, and its manner so unappealing, that the organisers will be doing well to get a smile out of them. Some players, it is clear by now, will not be coming this way again, so "hail and farewell".

The mood surrounding the game at the start of the season is worryingly autumnal. Given the absurd "noises off", when the appointment of the chairman of selectors and the selection panel itself has been reduced to low comedy, it might have been more appropriate to have hired the Whitehall Theatre for the function this morning, and invited Ray Cooney to present the gong, preferably after entering through a bedroom window. Into this mess strides a new man, a bold man and, from all available evidence, a good man. David Lloyd formally relinquished his duties at Lancashire last week, and starts his new job as England coach today, "on secondment"

for the summer. Should all go well, he may keep it for as long as he proves himself capable. It is worth adding that rider: at the moment, nobody can pronounce confidently on his prospects, or England's.

Lloyd has already made a rallying call to the troops and talked of putting a smile back on the face of English cricket. These are clichés, of course, and there will be a few more until he has the measure of the job, but it would be wrong to assume that Lloyd deals solely in platitudes and banalities. He has a first-rate mind, and sticks close to Hamlet's advice:

'If you're happy, show it'

"More matter, less art". What is more, he does not exaggerate his own importance.

Whereas Micky Stewart and Keith Fletcher were managers, and Raymond Illingworth became that bizarre creature, the "supremo", Lloyd is happy to be a coach, first and last. He is not an empire builder and not much of a politician. What interests him is cricket and cricketers, and he cannot wait to get cracking in a job that his career has prepared him for about as thoroughly as any career can.



Michael Henderson talks to the coach charged with the task of rejuvenating the national side

At 49, after 30 years in the game as player, umpire, coach and media-man, he is popular and — the two do not always go together — highly regarded. Keith Andrew, the director of coaching at the National Cricket Association, described him ten years ago as "the finest coach of young players I have seen anywhere" and Lloyd has since added to that reputation.

Sensibly, he does not claim to have a wand, seeing himself more as an "enabler". A coach can do only so much, he believes. Players selected for Test cricket should not have to be nagged. "The players are responsible," he said. "I am accountable. Everybody has to be aware of that."

"First, I want them to be comfortable with me, to earn their respect. Then, I will work alongside them, individually, and listen to them." Yet he does not confuse tolerance with indulgence.

"There is a difference between underachieving and letting yourself down," he said. "Nobody will let me down twice."

Lloyd is not coming into the job cold. His association with Michael Atherton at Lancashire must count for something, and the pair have discussed England matters in the month since his appointment. Lloyd will not be drawn on what passed between them, but it is fair to say that Atherton now has an ally prepared to shield him from some aspects of the captain's job and share the load.

"In the past year, he has had to open the batting, captain the side in two difficult Test series, run the nets, deal with the press, do everything on his own, and he has only just turned 28," Lloyd said. "He is an outstanding Test opener and he is improving as a captain. I've told him 'I'm here to support you'."

"Obviously, the team ran out of petrol in the winter after staying with South Africa for almost five Tests, but people shouldn't forget that they showed excellent fighting qualities in coming from behind twice against West Indies last summer."

team this summer is "enthusiasm, enjoyment, commitment and imagination, which is really game awareness. Most of all, I want us to be vibrant, because there are people who pay good money to watch England perform."

Lloyd admits that he is an emotional man ("I have a temper that surfaces about three times a season") and he wants England to be emotional about their cricket, without overstepping the mark. "I have no problems with players enjoying their success, but I am aware of cricket etiquette," he said. "I don't like to see other players being 'sent off' — but, basically, if you're happy, show it."

Or, as he might have put it, if you are unhappy, do not show it. It is doubtful whether the England players realise yet the depth of feeling that accompanied their miserable slog through the World Cup. The cricket-watching public felt let down by their general manner and there is a lot of ground to claw back. Lloyd acknowledges this.

As the recent coach of the England under-19 team, Lloyd knows that there is talent out there. It just seems

to have a habit of evaporating somewhere before it reaches Test level. The greatest need, as ever, is for bowlers who can really bowl, and the younger generation of pacemen can expect swift promotion if they impress. Only Dominic Cork is certain to begin the Test series against India in June and, by August, the attack may look very different.

"Richard Johnson, at Middlesex, has good pace. Glen Chapple, I know from Lancashire, has pace and movement," Lloyd said. "He just needs to pitch it up another yard."

Alex Tudor, of Surrey, is a strapping lad, has good pace and a bit more. Paul Hutchison, at Yorkshire, bowls left arm, has a super action and swings the ball the business way, back into the batsman."

Lloyd will be watching these players at Chelmsford next week, when England A play The Rest. Then, he is off on a national tour, talking to players, captains and coaches for their impressions of Test candidates. "I want everybody with half an interest in cricket to rally round," he said. "That will be easier when the team gives them a good reason to do so."



Lloyd comes to the England job well prepared

Cricket season stutters into life at the Parks amid debate about national team

First day covers bring stamp of summer

By SIMON BARNES

YOU can ride round Oxford in an open-top bus with a "live English-speaking guide". Ladies and gentlemen, here at the Parks, they are playing the first game of the cricket season, Oxford University against Leicestershire. And here, on the street corner, we see the Morris dancers...

Certainly I can elaborate, Mr Samura. This is a group of men clad in white, going through a rather tedious ritual, distantly related to fertility rites but whose meaning has long since been lost. No one cares, no one watches, but, for some reason, people like to think it still carries on. It is an aspect of the self-congratulatory quaintness that is part of the national Zeitgeist, and it is also quite a good excuse for a drink. Morris dancers, on the other hand, wear bells on their trousers.

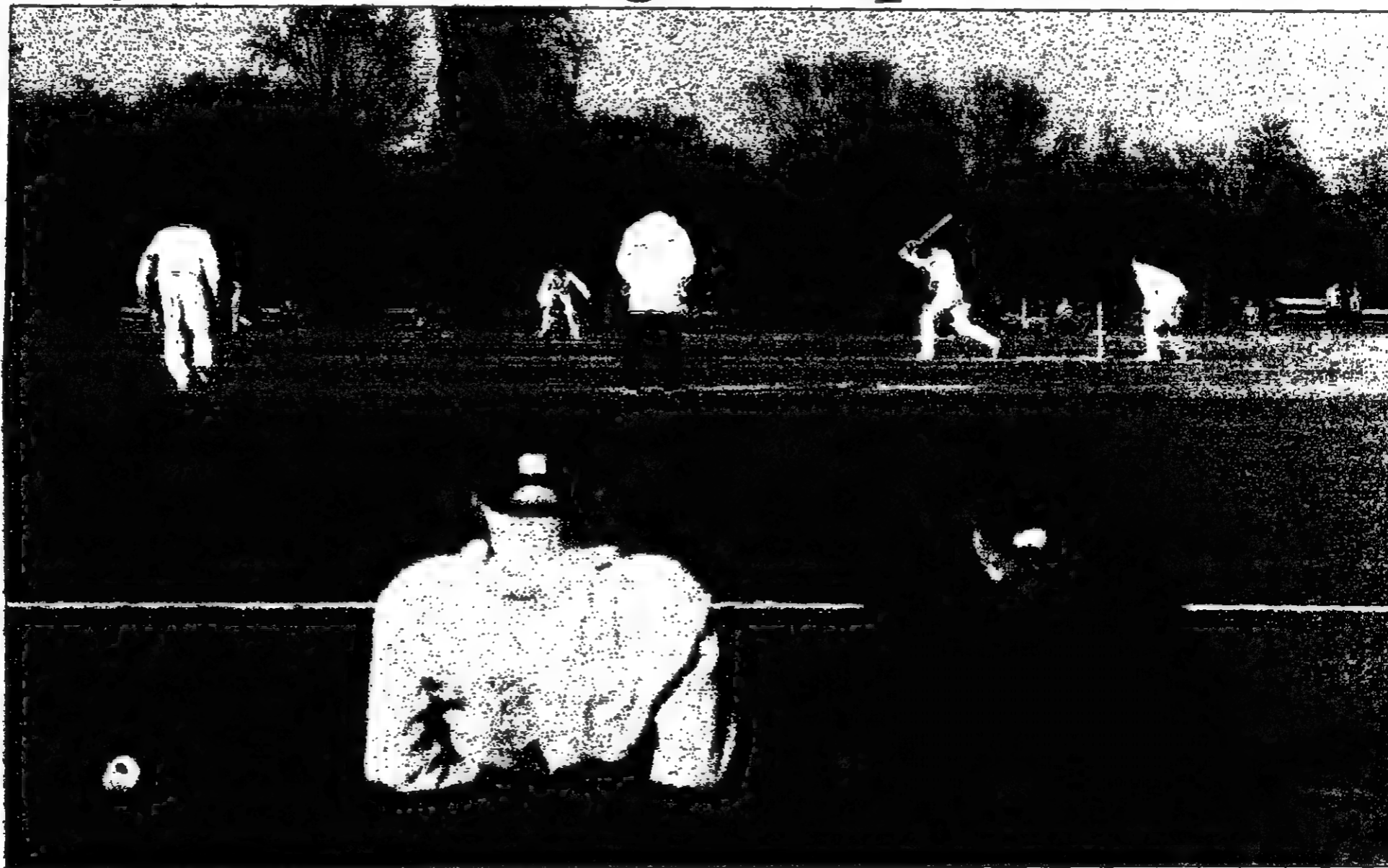
I was asked to cover the first day of the cricket season. I put the phone down; instantly, the sky darkened, the rain fell and turned to sleet. By the morning of the match, the ground was covered in snow, but, Oates-like, I carried on, anticipating a collector's item, a scene of pure Englishness: snow stops play.

I arrived to a scene of still purer Englishness: a gorgeous spring day, the song of mistle thrush in the air, and a bunch of people hanging about in shell-suits because play was not actually possible. Pitch inspection at two. The jobsworths barked, the dog-walkers moved on.

Only the true believers stayed, to debate the topic of the moment: whether English cricket? For English cricket is at a crossroads. The trouble is, it has been at the same crossroads for about 25 years, or ever since the one-day game became part of the liturgy.

It has remained there, stalled, unwilling to move on, skewered by its own indecision, unable to make a choice that involves left or right, and half suspecting that the only real answer in an illegal U-turn. The drivers and the passengers rage on inside, while the vehicle grows obsolete around them.

All admit that England's performances in international cricket are poor and that it



After a delayed start, Oxford University and Leicestershire perform an annual ritual, opening the cricket season watched by a curious few. Photograph: Gill Allen

matters, but no one can agree how much. The counties are subsidised by international cricket, but they wield huge power over the way the game is played. The tail wags the dog, say the progressivists: all this must be changed.

Change things, and you throw out the baby with the bath water, say the traditionalists, fighting back metaphor for metaphor. This is the only fully professional cricket circuit in the world; we should be proud.

Yes, but nobody watches it. We must pull it down, two divisions, no University cricket, everything to serve the

national side, get more like Australia, fight for pure excellence, pull out the branch-lines and let us run only the InterCity express.

Yet it is part of old England: teasops and jumble sales, duffle bags and Tizer, even-song and the fourteenth Sunday after Trinity. Never mind the state of English cricket: days like this are part of the state of England.

It is a battle of opposed sentimentalities. It is like the ancient debate over the city of Venice. Traditionalists always wanted Venice to be just as it is, or better, just as it was, with all trace of modern life excluded: not a living city but a living museum. The futurists of the 1930s wanted to destroy the palazzo and use the rubble to fill in the canals. Thus they opposed sentimentality about the past with a still more luxurious sentimentality about the future.

The great cricket debate has reached this level: an affair of polarised sentimentalities. Tourists find it charming. Visiting cricket-lovers find it moving, and view with reverence the gilded panels of teams long past, until they get chucked out — "Only players and officials in here". They sigh and leave and

say, oh well, it doesn't really matter — and it doesn't, of course, unless you want England to win Test matches and to get somewhere near the pace of the modern game.

By two o'clock, I had spent too much money in Blackwell's and was back at the Parks watching a pitch inspection. I learnt that Leicestershire had won the toss and elected to bat. By three, the players were coming out with a clatter of spikes on the pavilion steps. A few minutes later, Pierre du Preez was running in to bowl.

The first ball of the season was delivered left arm round

the wicket by a rugby Blue from Cape Town. It passed a generous distance outside the off stump and was politely ignored by Gregor Macmillan, the Oxford captain last year and now a county player. A triumph for the "system", then, as Macmillan scored the first run of the season with a steer to third man. He was also the first wicket of the season, bowled for eight when du Preez was discourteous enough to bowl a straight one.

So, Mr Samura, are you clearer about what is going on? You know all about the importance of culture and ritual in a society, surely?

Think of this as an event caught forever between sumo wrestling and the parish fête. Leicestershire were 139 for four at close of play.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
G J Macmillan b du Preez 8
V J Wells not out 57
B F Smith not out 56
D L Maddy c du Preez b Maltby 2
J J Whitaker b Thornton 10
R P A Nixon not out 10
Extras (b 2, w 2) 4
Total (4 wickets) 139

C C Parny, G J Parsons, A R K Person, D J Minto and A D Maltby to bat.
FALL: 1-14, 2-115, 3-121, 4-123
BOWLING: du Preez 11-0-25-0, Thomson 13-6-22-1, Maltby 2-0-7-0, Mather 9-1-35-0, Maltby 11-3-31-1, Khan 1-0-6-0

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: c M Gurney, J J Sacille, A C Ridley, M E D Jerrard, G Khan, H S Maltby, M A Wagh, J N Batty, R Thornton, D P Mather, S P du Preez
Umpires: A G T Whithead and N G Cowley

Cronje and Kirsten leave India reeling

SOUTH AFRICA, having crushed Pakistan by 143 runs in their first Sharjah Cup match, brushed aside India by 80 runs in their second game yesterday, despite making a poor start to the one hundredth one-day match played at the desert venue.

They were 50 for three in the tenth over, only for Hansie Cronje to join Gary Kirsten, the opening batsman, in a partnership of 154 from 155 balls. Kirsten stayed until the 43rd over for his 100; Cronje hit three sixes in his innings of 90 from 82 balls as South Africa reached 288 for six.

India then lost Sachin Tendulkar for two in the sixth over, from a mistimed pull off the bowling of Fanie de Villiers.

Mohammad Azharuddin and Sanjay Manjrekar provided some stability by adding 82 for the fifth wicket before both fell in successive overs, while trying to charge Pat Symcox, the off spinner.

On Saturday, with Daryll Cullinan leading the way with 110, South Africa piled up 314 for three against Pakistan and then restricted them to 171 for seven.

Sri Lanka, the World Cup winners, beat West Indies by 35 runs in a one-day international in Trinidad on Saturday. Aggressive displays from Asanka Gurusinha (59) and Sanath Jayasuriya (46) enabled Sri Lanka to reach 251 and they then bowled and fielded superbly to limit West Indies to 216 for nine.

Brian Lara, with a typically fluent 71, and Phil Simmons (45), his Trinidad and Tobago compatriot, threatened to carry West Indies to victory during a third-wicket stand of 116 from 123 balls, but, once they were dismissed in consecutive overs, Sri Lanka took complete control.

In Grenada, Cameron Cuffy and Nixon McLean, the fast bowlers, shared seven wickets as the New Zealanders were forced to follow on against West Indies President's XI.

The touring side were dismissed for 113 in reply to 454, but made a better fist of their second innings, reaching 105 for two.

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The original paper

DELIVERY 4

ITALIA The first and still the best.

Oliver Holt on a large crowd, a big man and a huge disappointment for the Monarchs Claymores leave The Fridge out in the cold

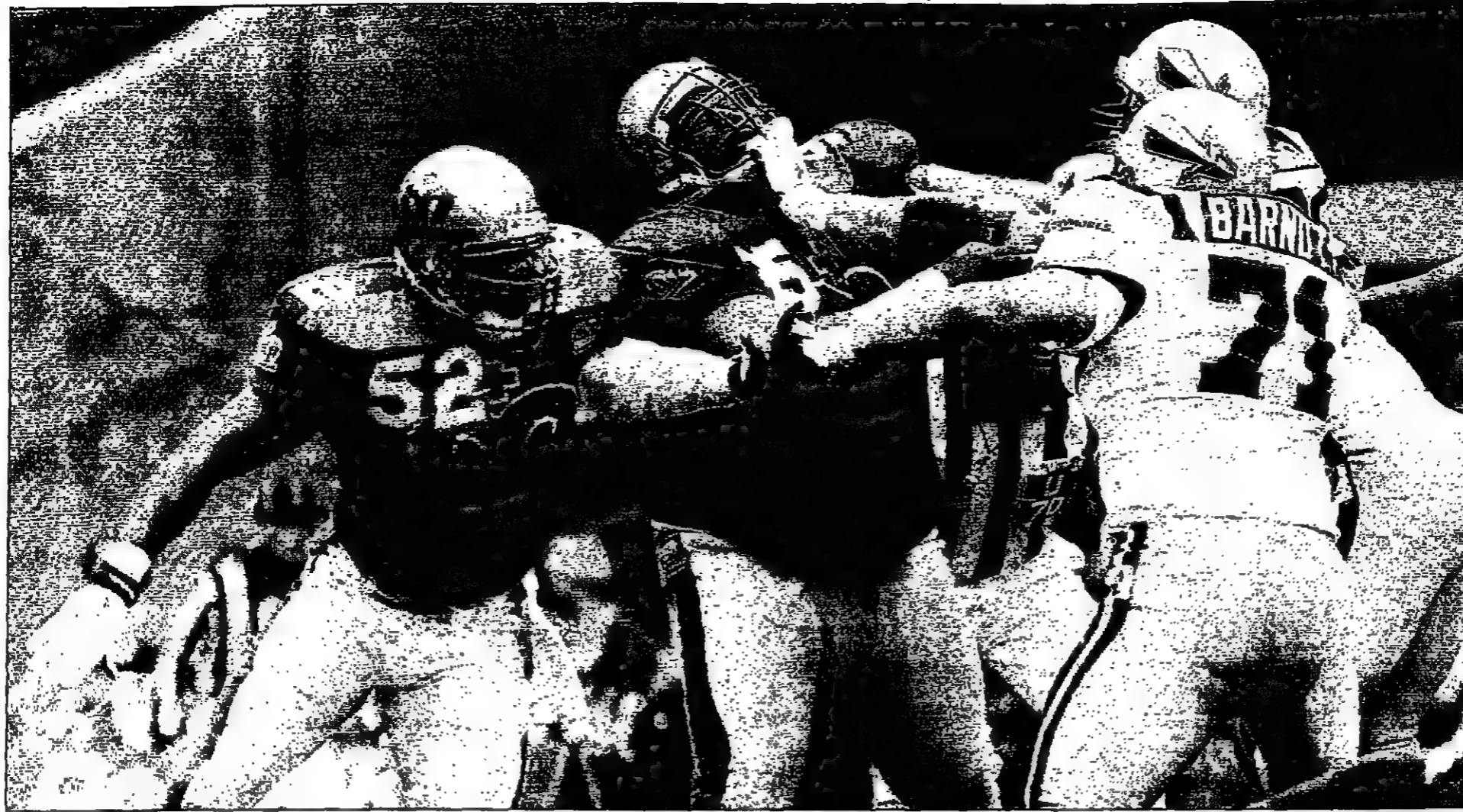
IT TAKES a special kind of guy to blend his gargantuan 350lb frame into the back-ground, but William Perry managed it. On his long-awaited World League American football debut for the London Monarchs yesterday, the man who was once the most famous player in the United States took the field just twice in the first half. If he really is still The Fridge, he could do with a good defrosting.

Perry's role was expanded in the second half of the Monarchs' 24-21 defeat at the hands of Gavin Hastings' Scottish Claymores at White Hart Lane, and his number of plays leapt well into double figures, but it is possible for a man of his size to be peripheral, he achieved it. When the loudspeaker system blasted everyone out of their seats with the Rolling Stones singing *Start Me Up*, it could have been a personal plea from the Big Man.

At times, it seemed that Perry, a nose tackle who was a celebrated member of the feared Chicago Bears defence of the late Eighties, was having trouble dragging his bulk on to the pitch. When he broke into a slow trot, it looked awkward and lumbering, as if he was in pain, and on each of the two second-half occasions that he made a tackle, he retired to the touchline immediately to recover from his exertions.

Perhaps it was just that the expectations that had been heaped upon him were too high, or maybe the fact that the Claymores double-teamed him. The game, the Monarchs' first at the beginning of the fourth season of the World League, had been sold almost exclusively on his bloodthirsty reputation for sacking quarterbacks and what he fondly called "smash-mouth football". "Any refrigerator can store mince meat," the advertising slogans read. "This one makes it."

By the time he took the field to the strains of *Ice, Ice Baby*, by Vanilla Ice, and performed a little jig on the half-way line, Perry had already done most of his work. More than 16,000 people made the journey to north London, an improvement on the Monarchs' average attendance of around 10,000 during a mediocre season last year. Whether they can retain their new followers remains to be seen.



William Perry, aka The Fridge, gets a warm reception from the Scottish Claymores defence at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photographs: Ian Stewart

With Hastings kicking extra points — and the England versus Scotland element given extra spice by its coincidence with the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, this match was bound to be the easiest for the marketing men to sell. Matches against teams like the Amsterdam Admirals and Rhein Fire may be less attractive to potential converts.

If Perry's recruitment to the Monarchs' cause has been greeted with some well-founded cynicism, Hastings' commitment has been largely unquestioned due to his ten-year, 61-cap career in Scottish rugby union. His PR company are marketing consultants for the Claymores, but his role yesterday was unimpeachable, if brief.

The ball touched his boot just six times, a small fraction of the number that it would in rugby, but each conversion,

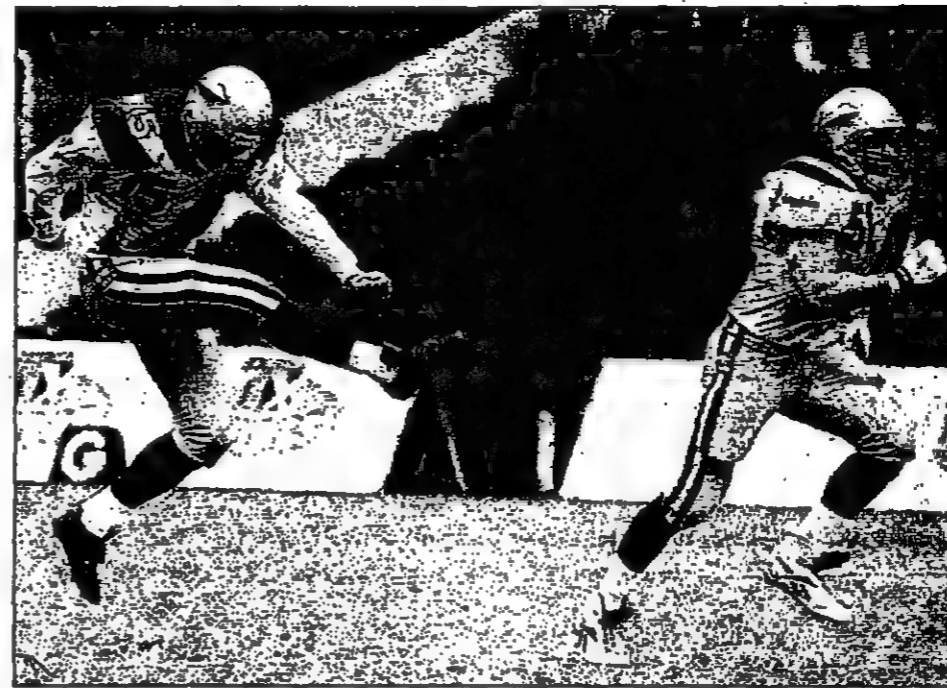
including one to take the game into overtime with three seconds remaining, was unerring in its accuracy. His three kick-offs, if a little shallow, were perfectly acceptable. Anything more demanding, like the overtime field goal that won the game for the Claymores, was left to another kicker, Paul McCallum.

The rest of the players, who laboured under typical Anglo-Scottish names like Yo Murphy, Horrace Morris and Darren Studstill, put on an entertaining show that does bode well for the future of the league. It may not have been of the highest quality, rich in fumbles and interceptions, but there was some fine quarterback passing, too, and once the players, rejects from football leagues (NFL), get to know each other better, the gremlins are likely to disappear.

"When I took the kick to try to tie the game right at the end

of normal time, it was the most nervous I have ever been, and that includes any kick I ever took in rugby," Hastings said. "If I missed that kick, we lost the game. It was as simple as that. It is not difficult to play a limited part, but your concentration levels have to be kept high at all times. It was fantastic out there and they are a great bunch of guys."

"I enjoyed every minute of it, though. I think it was good value for money. There's a long way to go until the World Bowl in the summer, but if we keep playing like that we must have a chance. That is one game down and ten to go." Frankfurt Galaxy made a successful start to the defence of their World League title on Saturday with a 27-21 win over Rhein Fire. The crowd of 32,000 at Düsseldorf saw Steve Peuller, Galaxy's former Dallas Cowboys quarterback, complete 24 of 35 passes, including two for touchdowns.



Hastings, later successful with six conversions for the Claymores, gets the ball rolling

Pakistan end Britain's proud run

Great Britain 0
Pakistan 2
FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain lost a proud record with a 2-0 defeat by Pakistan in the six-nations men's hockey tournament here on Saturday. In the run-up to this troubled event, Britain had been unbeaten in 18 international matches.

The problems that had dogged the tournament since it began on Thursday continued unabated when heavy rain in the morning destroyed every hope of staging the match on the newly-laid artificial turf pitch at the Clarke University Stadium.

Against their wishes, the teams were forced to play on the practice pitch and consequently approached their task with caution.

The match began badly for Britain with Pakistan going ahead in the second minute. A through pass from Tahir Zaman, the inside right, was picked up by Asif Bajwa, the outside right, whose angled shot took Mason by surprise. From midway in the first half, Britain began to push forward, but, as nothing tangible had been achieved, Pearn was sent on as a replacement for Robert Thompson at centre forward.

With Britain improving their workrate Pakistan's defence was kept busy and, shortly before half-time, the

Pakistanis were penalised for obstruction, conceding the first short corner of the match. Giles came on from the bench but was deprived of a shot by Usman, the right half, who was quick off the line.

Rain soaked the pitch during the interval, worsening the playing conditions, and Britain made more substitutions, with Shaw being thrust into the attack and Soma Singh sent on at left half.

The greater threat, however, always came from Pakistan, who missed a couple of easy chances.

Britain persevered and forced three short corners; on the first two occasions, the hit from the line was not stopped and when Giles was eventually permitted a shot it was well

served by Manzoor Ahmed. Two minutes before the end Britain's fate was sealed by the young Pakistani substitutes. Mohammed Sawar centred from the right and Raza Aleem, on the left wing, scored.

Dhanraj Pillay scored all three goals for India in the 3-0 defeat of Argentina.

GREAT BRITAIN: S. Mason (Reading), J. Wright (Reading), J. Hall (Old Londonians), G. Fordham (Gloucesters), K. Taylor (Canterbury), S. Hazell (Gloucesters), G. Mayer (Canterbury), J. Laidlaw (Reading), R. Thompson (Gloucesters), R. Garcia (Polo Club Barcelona), N. Thompson (Old Londonians). Subs used: M. Pearn (Reading), C. Giles (Worcesters), Soma Singh (Gloucesters), J. Shaw (Gloucesters). **PAKISTAN:** Manzoor Ahmed, Danish Kaleem, Naveed Akram, Muhammad Usman, Khalid Mehmood, Asif Bajwa, Tahir Zaman, Kamran Arshad, Muhammad Shahzad, Asif Khan, Sobia Usad, Muhammad Saeed, Raza Aleem, Rana Mubeen. Umpires: W. Carbal (Argentina) and S. Hargan (United States).

Women fail to impress

GREAT Britain's women got the chance to show their hockey skills to the nation on Saturday with a televised match against Holland at Milton Keynes (Alix Ramsay writes). The BBC has promised to broadcast British achievements in Atlanta if the team reaches the latter stages of the Olympic tournament, but, judging by this lacklustre 1-0 defeat, the schedules should not be troubled.

It was the second defeat by the Dutch in three days and, while 1-0 sounds more respectable than the 5-2 thrashing on Thursday, it was hardly a confidence booster. Britain managed only one serious shot on goal, a flick from a penalty corner after 11 minutes from Karen Brown.

Despite enjoying the greater share of possession, the British women did not seem to know what to do with it, especially in front of the Dutch goal. The few crosses into the circle found nobody on the end of them and Jenny Cardwell, the team manager, bemoaned the lack of commitment displayed by the British forwards. "We need some ducks and divers in there," she said.

Not that the Dutch were swarming around the home goal, either. Jo Thompson, the goalkeeper, was more than a match for them, but not even she could fend off a move involving Ellen Kuipers and Suzan van der Wielen that set up Wieske de Ruiter to place her shot after 54 minutes.

The squad for Saturday has now been joined by Kathy Johnson, Jo Mould and Tina Cullen for a two-week training trip to Atlanta for games against Spain and the United States. By the time they return, the players will know exactly who has won a place for the Olympics.

Certainly, Cullen's confidence is riding high. On Saturday, she scored the goal against Doncaster that won Hightown, from Liverpool, their first league title. With nine goals in the European Cup Winner's Cup last weekend and 13 in the league — making her the premier division's top scorer — Cullen could be precisely the duck and diver that Cardwell is looking for.

RESULTS: Third Round: Radley 4 Chesham 1; Tonbridge 3; Weston 1; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

RESULTS: Third Round: Radley 4 Chesham 1; Tonbridge 3; Weston 1; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

Britain reap reward for new discipline

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

GREAT Britain's ice-hockey players had a more than satisfactory weekend in pool B of the world championship. After disappointing defeats against Switzerland and Latvia, successive wins over Poland and Holland brought four much-needed points and virtually eliminated the danger of relegation to pool C.

Vitality, in both weekend matches, discipline was much improved and there was a drastic reduction in the number of penalties that had cost Britain dearly earlier in the tournament. Indeed, three of the four goals in the 4-2 win over Poland on Saturday came when Poland players were sitting in the penalty box.

Doug Mason, the Canadian-born coach of the Dutch team, had said before the match yesterday that he felt that his team's best chance lay in taking advantage of British penalties. Unfortunately for his game plan, Britain led 2-0 at the end of the first period through Paul Adey and Patrick Scott and were out of reach at 5-1 — with goals from Merv Priest, Steve Moria and Simon Hunt — at the end of the second.

Peter Woods, the Britain coach, was obviously delighted with the two wins, but the

day off today will be spent continuing to try to eliminate some of the bad habits that the players get into during their domestic season.

"It was a great result," he said. "I was a bit apprehensive it being our fourth game in five days. We did play a bit more of a complete game. We have a day off now and a chance to regroup. We are happy with where we stand right now and hopefully we can progress from there."

Mason was honest enough to admit that things could have been worse for his side had it not been for Honore Loos, in goal, but for whom it might have been 5-0 at the end of the first period.

Britain's next game is tomorrow against Japan and that is likely to provide another win that would leave them still in with an outside chance of a bronze medal, although there are still some difficult games to come.

It is encouraging that so many players have contributed to the two weekend wins and, while Tim Cranston scored three goals in the two games, including a final effort from a penalty shot yesterday, with six other players on the scoresheet, it was certainly a team effort.

Haining lifts Olympic hopes

PETER HAINING, aiming for Olympic selection and 1½ stone heavier than when he won his third lightweight world rowing title last summer, regained his Scullers Head crown on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes).

Racing into a tough headwind from the Mortlake start, Haining moved steadily away from Guy Pooley, his fellow Olympic aspirant. Conditions were appalling from Chiswick Eyst to Hammersmith, causing Pooley to catch two "boat-stopping crabs" at St Paul's, while Haining's only apparent concession to the waves was a drop in rate from 31 to 30.

Defeat costs dear for Loughran

BRITISH boxing suffered yet another blow on Saturday (Srikumar Sen writes). After the world title defeats in recent weeks of Nigel Benn and Frank Bruno, Eamonn Loughran lost his World Boxing Organisation welterweight title. He was demolished in 51 seconds by José Luis López, a little-known Mexican, at the Everton Park Sports Centre.

Loughran's failure to stand up to two rights and a follow-through uppercut left ITV reeling as well. As the result of a dispute over the light-flyweight world title bout

although he said afterwards: "It was a nightmare trying to keep my forearms loose. It was like taking one step forward and two back."

Conditions improved as the two-hour race unfolded and the tide fell, producing some spectacular rises for later competitors, including Mark Kettle, who moved from 162nd to second and Chris Greenway, who moved to fifth from 265th, to win the novice honours.

Tish Reid, Great Britain's Olympic sculler in 1992 and aiming for another Olympic vest in Atlanta, was the fastest woman of the day, but Sue Appelboom, a lightweight fi-

nalist last summer and starting eighth, was pipped for the lightweight class by Nicky Dale, a fellow international, who started 316th.

The Cambridge men and women crews won re-runs of their Boat Races against Oxford at Lake Lanier, Georgia, on Saturday. In a new Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Harvard regatta, the Cambridge women were the only Britons to achieve a 100 per cent record with two wins. Overall, however, Cambridge were edged into second place by Harvard.

Results, page 34

Knowles makes most of chance in spotlight

FROM RICHARD EATON IN HERNING, DENMARK

PETER KNOWLES, so often in the shadow of Darren Hall, the eight-times national champion, emerged into the limelight by unexpectedly beating Jeroen van Dijk, the world No 23, to hasten England's 4-1 victory over Holland yesterday and ensure that his country will contest one of the medals on the final day of the team event at the European badminton championships today.

Knowles, the England No 2, was brought in to lighten Hall's load during a day in which countries in the top groups had to play twice. Knowles responded with a 15-11, 15-9 success against an opponent who had created a surprise on the opening day by beating Pool Erik Hoyer, the All-England champion. Against Knowles, Van Dijk looked as if he was suffering from the aftermath of that career-best win.

He was sluggish and, after losing an 11-7 lead in the first game, appeared resigned to defeat in the second. Nonetheless, Knowles took his chance in lively fashion, hitting flat and fast, changing the direction of his attacks and disguising his overhead drops well. His success put England 2-0 up and the winning lead was

completed in the women's doubles by Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury. Earlier, Bradbury and Simon Archer had struggled in the opening encounter, trailing 10-7 in the final game to Ron Michels and Erica van den Heuvel. However, the mixed doubles gold medal favourites for the individual event recovered to win 15-9, 8-15, 15-10.

During this match, it was evident that Archer still has problems with the ankle ligaments that hindered him in the All-England final last month, and there was worse injury news to follow. Nick Ponting, the 1994 All-England mixed doubles champion, will take no part in the tournaments because of a knee problem. This will damage England's chances of medals in the individual events, in which he and Wright had been seeded fourth. Ponting and Julian Robertson had been seeded in the five to eight category in the men's doubles.

Denmark, the favourites, scored their second win, 5-0 over Scotland, and Sweden, the holders, achieved their second success, 5-0 over Poland. Both will be contesting medals today.



LATEST QUALIFIERS FOR ARENA FINALS

Mixed: D. Craig & G. Seaver (Frislington Heath G.C.), S. Booth & P. Bellamy (Burgill Valley G.C.).

Ladies: T. Evans & E. Maggs (Frislington Heath G.C.), L. Hills & S. Record, E. Rawlins & M. Whitley (University of Newcastle), P. Jenkins & M. Price (Burgill Valley G.C.), M. Bellamy & G. Dewey (Chew Valley B.C.).

Mixed: M. & P. Lynch, R. & J. Mitchell (Frislington Heath G.C.), E. Carter & F. Laidler (Chew Valley B.C.), R. Propps & J. Featherstone, M. Whedbee & F. Renne (S.W. London B.C.).

FOR DETAILS OF THE CHALLENGE CALL: 0181-942 9506 or fax to: 0181-942 9569



'If you die, we don't get into trouble', the bungee jumpers told Perry Cleveland-Peck

Blasted up into the sky



At his wit's end: "The crane stopped about 300ft above London and the gate was opened. After five attempts and around ten minutes, I stopped my blubbing and let go"



At ten yards per second, you accelerate towards the ground — you see the whole of London rise up from the skyline, then Chelsea Bridge and then the Thames. You cannot shout. You cannot move. You simply hang there. At last the cord around your ankles absorbs your fall. Only then, as you are fired back into the sky, do you realise that you may actually survive this. Perhaps, if you still have the

capacity, you will ask yourself why people queue, like lemmings, to take part in this peculiar sport. In a moment of rash bravado, I accepted a commission to write an article on bungee jumping. I thought it would be a simple matter, after all, any fool can throw him or herself off a crane with nothing but a length of elastic for support. I even thought it might be pleasant. So, with a nervous constitu-

tion, I arrived, one recent Sunday morning, at the appropriately named Adrenalin Village on Chelsea Bridge. Jon Nicholls, the proprietor, greeted me with a firm handshake and a disclaimer. "If you die, we don't get into trouble," he kindly summarised for me. Nicholls felt that I should be introduced to the world of adrenalin with a bungee catapult. This is a reverse bungee — you start from the ground and are blasted into the sky.

With a harness on, I was attached to a type of trigger mechanism that held me to the ground while the cord was stretched to the crane overhead. Around this point in the exercise I began to grasp the magnitude of my imminent fate. "Are you ready?" I was asked (how can you possibly be ready?). "Not really," I replied. With that I was fired 280ft into the sky.

The ground simply drops away from you. The whole experience is so alien that it is hard to believe that you are really there. In a matter of about a second, I found myself extremely high and rather alone above Chelsea Bridge. My friends, who had come to watch an idiot scare himself to death, were mere specks on the ground.

is made of the same latex material as knicker elastic and condoms. It occurred to me, as the instructor ran through a series of checks, that I had known both to break. This did nothing to reassure me. "Have you got any jewellery on?" my instructor asked. "How much do you weigh?" After each answer he would stamp my hand with what I later discovered was an airmail ink stamp. I believe it is used to keep the uninformed mind occupied.

The crane stopped and the gate was opened. London in all its splendour lay before me — I was not enjoying the view. "Just stick your heels over the edge and lean back. When you're ready, let go," the instructor said. I tried to think rationally about what I was about to do — I failed. There is nothing rational about bungee jumping — you just have to put your fate in the hands of the gods and do it. After five attempts and about ten minutes, I stopped my blubbing and let go.

Other than developing a fear of heights, I have since come to the conclusion that people can't bungee jump for pleasure. Like a phal curry or Mount Everest they do it not because it is enjoyable but just because it is there to experience.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Playing simple methods, if your partner overcalls 1NT, it is usual to play a response of Two Clubs as natural and weak; to inquire for majors, you have to bid the opponents' suit. What, though, is the meaning of a delayed bid of the opponents' suit? That came up on this hand, from the 1996 Malta Bridge Festival.

Dealer South	Game all	Match-pointed pairs
♠ J884 ♥ AAKQ ♦ KQ97 ♣ 73		♠ 9532 ♥ J1084 ♦ 8 ♣ K984
♠ A ♥ 85 ♦ A1542 ♣ AQ652		♠ KQ107 ♥ 8732 ♦ 1085 ♣ J10

S	W	N	E
Pass Pass 2D	1D 2C All Pass	1NT Pass	Pass Pass

Contract: Two Diamonds by South Lead: Ace of clubs

David Kendrick, my partner (South), intended his Two Diamond bid to ask me to choose between the major suits. I interpreted it as a desire to play in diamonds. In the abstract, I think that is a reasonable view, but here, my diamond holding should have guided me to the correct conclusion. West was marked with at least five diamonds when he backed in with Two Clubs, and so as my partner could have, at most, four. He must have intended Two Diamonds to be for take-out.

At trick two, West mistakenly continued with the ace of spades; he followed with a club to East's king and ruffed the spade return. Kendrick ruffed the club continuation in hand, and ran the eight of diamonds. He then played another spade, ruffed by West. Now, declarer was in control — he ruffed the next club in hand, crossed to the queen of hearts and played the king of diamonds. All West could make was the ace of diamonds. The defence made the ace of spades, two ruffs, the diamond ace and two club tricks, for +100.

I was on my toes in the post-mortem. After congratulating my partner on his deft handling of the 5-1 trump break, I pointed out that Two Spades also goes off — the defence get the ace of diamonds and two ruffs, along with three tricks in the black suits. On top of that, had I removed Two Diamonds to Two Spades, East would have gone on to Three Clubs and scored at least 110.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

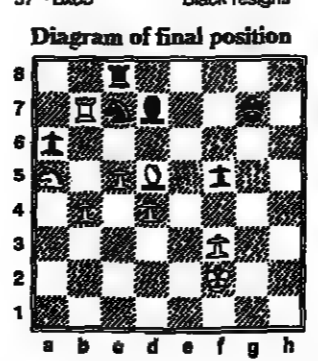
BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Men v Machines
After Kasparov's epic battle against IBM's Deep Blue computer, great interest has been aroused in trials of strength between human and silicon brains. The Aegon tournament, in progress in The Hague, Holland, sees a massed field of computers battling against human masters and grandmasters.

Jon Speelman, of Great Britain, is one of the early leaders. In this game, he follows the established anti-computer strategy of minimising tactical opportunities and stressing strategic contours that the silicon brains find difficult to grasp.

White: Jon Speelman
Black: Arthur Aegon, Man v Machine April 1996

Queen's Pawn Opening	
1 d4	d5
2 c3	Nf6
3 Bf4	c6
4 e3	Qb6
5 Qb3	Bb7
6 Nbd2	Nb7
7 Nf3	e6
8 Bg2	Be7
9 h3	Nh5
10 Ne3	Nf6
11 Nf3	Nh5
12 Bf2	O-O
13 Be2	Nh6
14 Nd2	Ra7
15 O-O	Rf8
16 Na5	Nd4
17 Nd3	Bd4
18 Nc5	Ndxc5
19 bxc5	a5
20 Bxe5	Nd2
21 Rf1	Nc4
22 g3	Bc8

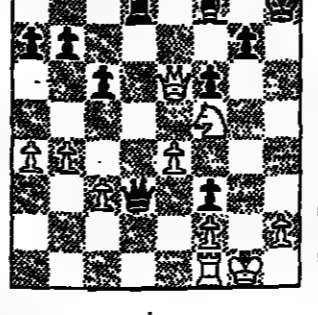


□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This week, I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine, the great attacking world champion who died 50 years ago. This position is from the game Blumenfeld — Alekhine, Moscow, 1908. The danger signal for White here is the advanced Black pawn on b3. This pawn constantly helps to create threats against the white king. How did Black exploit these?



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

YAGER
a. A coarse weave
b. A Prussian sergeant
c. A rifle

VACKY
a. Crazy Yiddish
b. An evanesce
c. A cow

SOLVITUR AMBULANDO
a. Practical proof
b. Cure by exercise
c. An ingenious paradox

TENDU
a. Raw fish dish
b. Stretched
c. A ceremonial welcome

Answers on page 42

THE GREATEST

TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you another chance to vote for the Greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the 12-part series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

The cases for Jackie Stewart, Linford Christie, Bobby Moore, Torvill and Dean, Mary Rand, Ian Botham, Barry John and Nick Faldo of the 20 shortlisted have been stated. Each week two contenders are examined and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Kris Akabusi). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Steve Ovett and Bobby Charlton. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

Many great runners have hunted records and titles in pairs. There are few better examples of how an athlete can be pushed to higher tests through intense rivalry with a contemporary than the case of Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett. Their pursuit of medals and times was further stimulated by the arrival of Steve Cram, the third of the trio of outstanding British runners.

Ovett's successes in championships were outstanding but they would probably have been even more impressive if he had not competed in such a glorious era of international middle-distance running. Ovett's victories were certainly hard-earned. Before Coe became a force, Ovett had looked the supreme 1500 metres runner, particularly at the 1977 World Cup, when he streaked away from the world's best runners. Although he was not as intrinsically fast as some of his contemporaries, he possessed an explosive kick which could win a race in a few yards.

Ovett was a better at 1500 metres than 800 metres, in which he never set a world record. Curiously his Olympic title in 1980 was earned at the shorter distance, with Coe winning the 1500 metres. Ovett was very much a runner's runner. He competed in a wide range of events, including cross-country, and trained with determined concentration.

When Ovett was at his peak, he looked like a stag in flight. He possessed an aura in athletics which few have ever equalled.

Courage has been defined as grace under pressure. Bobby Charlton epitomised grace, whether under pressure or not, throughout his illustrious career from an all too brief glided youth to statesmanlike maturity. His high style as one of English football's greatest talents for Manchester United and England were matched by his impeccable disciplinary record. He began as a goalkeeping wonderkid, winning his first League Championship medal in the great Manchester United team which was destroyed at Munich in 1958. Charlton survived, becoming a man overnight as he carried the new team to Wembley on his slim shoulders, and announcing his arrival on the international scene with a typical goal against Scotland at Hampden Park, a volley which flew into the net in a blur.

There was inevitably a reaction, and for a time his career stalled, but by the mid-Sixties he had established his permanent niche as an attacking midfield player for England and United, playing a key role in their greatest triumphs, England's World Cup win in 1966, when he scored twice in the semi-final, and United's European Cup victory two years later, when he scored the first goal. He was England's leading scorer with 49 goals in 106 games, and United's with 169 in the League, but as well as the blistering shooting, those sweeping crossfield passes, surging runs and devastating body swerves stay in the mind. He retired in 1973 after 17 years in the first division; a year later United were relegated.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

- Achievement** — for honours won and overall record
- Dominance** — for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers
- Style** — for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
- Fortitude** — for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
- Impact** — charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Bantam, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all — a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on 0891 65 55 44.

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 5, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
STEVE OVETT	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts
BOBBY CHARLTON	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts	pts
Name						
Address						
Daytime telephone						
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.						
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or <i>The Times</i>						



The author puts his best feet forward back on terra firma

ATHLETICS

CAPE TOWN: ASA Ensign meeting. 100m: D. Braithwaite (SA) 13.52sec. 200m: J. Rogers (GB) 26.61. 400m: J. Thomas (GB) 45.80sec. 1,000m: M. van Heerden (SA) 4:47.57. 2,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 14:41.41. 5,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 39:20.62. 10,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 81:23.42. 15,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 124:55.41. 20,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 168:45.41. 25,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 212:35.41. 30,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 256:25.41. 35,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 300:15.41. 40,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 344:05.41. 45,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 387:55.41. 50,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 431:45.41. 55,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 475:35.41. 60,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 519:25.41. 65,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 563:15.41. 70,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 607:05.41. 75,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 650:55.41. 80,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 694:45.41. 85,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 738:35.41. 90,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 782:25.41. 95,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 826:15.41. 100,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 870:05.41. 105,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 913:55.41. 110,000m: J. Thomas (GB) 957:45.41. 115,000m: J. 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Overbury sets standard with victory in valuable Hong Kong event

Godolphin clocks on for new season

By JULIAN MUSCAT

AS NEWMARKET'S big battle-tions fine-tune their classic candidates before this week's trials, word will have spread like wildfire that Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation is already up and running.

The stable picked up where it left off last season when Overbury, ridden by Frankie Dettori, landed the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, yesterday. Such triumphs have become almost commonplace but the real business starts when 45 Godolphin horses arrive in Newmarket on April 28.

Thus will commence the game within a game. Alhaarth and Mark Of Esteem, Blue Duster and Bini Shadady: the Makpoms' Godolphin-trained horses pitted against the same family's thoroughbreds trained in Britain. Last year there was only one winner. Overbury's victory suggests that racegoers will be seduced once again by the desert team.

However, Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, played down talk of another barnstorming summer with low-key accounts of the recent trials in Dubai. The chances are that Crisford was merely keeping a tight grip on hype. He is, though, keenly looking forward to a season that opens with Godolphin knowing little about the racing merits of its lightly-raced string.

That is why Godolphin's training strategy fully embraces the stopwatch. "We have a good understanding of the track at Al Quoz," Crisford said, "and we can compare the times recorded by Moonshell and Vettori in training last year. The sand surface is consistent and safe so we



Thoroughbreds enjoy a swim at Sheikh Mohammed's Al Quoz stables in Dubai, where the detailed training regime produces outstanding results

know exactly where we are with each horse."

Guesswork is wholly absent from all aspects of Godolphin's programme. The date, April 11, when the classic prospects were galloped hard was established many months ago. It is precisely 17 days from the string's departure to Newmarket. "The route worked well for us last year," Crisford explained. "It means we have the opportunity to do two more

bits of work with our runners for the Guinness meeting. As soon as we get to Newmarket on April 28, we have to wipe a whole week from our calendar. The horses won't work in the week leading up to the classics. They must be race-fit when they leave Dubai."

The whole regimen is played out in front of Sheikh Mohammed, who is involved on a daily basis. His input goes way beyond watching work and selecting race tar-

gets. He monitors the quality of his, assesses each horse's condition and takes part in good-natured squabbling over diets and other routine matters around the yard.

Visits to the stable during quiet times of the day require you to tiptoe down the barns while talking in whispers. Culling the string from 85 to 45 for the Newmarket trip is described by Crisford as a brutal process from which only the best emerge.

As for the likely stars, Crisford is a reluctant sooth-sayer. Even after the much-publicised trials he insists a lot can change in the next three weeks. "Those gallopes were not the be all and end all," he said. "There is time for Mark Of Esteem and Bini Shadady to improve. Prickett [an Oaks candidate] was disappointing, as was Russian Revival, but he has worked better than he showed that day."

Others for whom expecta-

tions rose were Mick's Love and Helicon. Don Micheletto, described by a possible French 2,000 Guineas colt, also moved well. Of the two-year-olds, two fillies attracting his attention are Harasat and Manueta. If it remains anyone's guess which will prove the best of them, there seems little doubt Godolphin will unveil something to capture the racing world's attention by the summer's end.

Classic dreams of a breed apart

Writing and breeding racehorses is more often about disappointment than success. At Eydon Hall Stud, we have been lucky enough to have bred and raised a number of good ones. Barathra, Markofdistinction and Bequest are among the group one winners produced on the farm but Bosra Sham is potentially the best.

Judgment day arrives at Newbury on Friday, when Bosra Sham reappears in the Fred Darling Stakes. Seven months of expectation will condense into a moment of hard galloping and the outcome will determine whether she deserves to be favourite for the 1,000 Guineas.

Breeding racehorses became both a passion and a business 30 years ago. It remains an imprecise art, yet expectations for Bosra Sham were high from the day she was foaled. She was originally named Quercifolia, although Wafic Said registered her after buying her at the yearling sales. He paid 530,000 guineas, but I still think of her as mine.

There is no doubt Bosra

Sham carries the genes to perform at the highest level. If not a guarantee, it is always a help. She is by Woodman out of Korveya, who has already bred two French classic winners in Hector Protector and Shanghai. In her youth she was clearly the pick of the foals at

sales toppers. It was hardly a portent for a successful racing career. Yet soon there were reports of her prowess. It usually pays to temper such enthusiasm but Bosra Sham did not disappoint. She followed her winning debut at Newbury by running away with the group one filly's Mile at Ascot.

Should Bosra Sham make it to Newmarket, the experience will be extreme to say the least. I remember what happened when Ahead, my first classic runner, took part in the 1990 Oaks. The start was delayed, and all that had gone before played on my mind like a drowning man.

Here was a filly I had bred and raised, out of a mare I had also bred and raised. Many from the family were in the paddocks at Eydon Hall. Their pedigrees would be much enhanced if Ahead could win. She finished a respectable fifth behind Salsabil and I wondered how long it would be before Eydon Hall produced another classic runner. Breeding horses teaches you to take nothing for granted.

In many ways, Markof-

distinction typifies this business. He came along by chance. His mother's intended mate suffered an accident, so she was covered by Known Fact. The plan was to sell Markofdistinction but he injured a knee and was retained to race in his colours by default. He became champion milker of Europe.

After Markofdistinction came Barathra, who won the 1994 Breeders' Cup Mile. Could there ever be another moment like it? Could it get better? Indeed, should one even try? Barathra became a champion milker, out of a family Eydon Hall has nurtured for many years.

A new racing season brings with it new hopes. More often than not, it ends in disappointment. Should Bosra Sham fail, aspiration will turn once again to the two-year-olds being broken and conditioned; the yearlings with their problems of development. Then there are this year's foals. Success is the reward; failure the spur.

GERALD LEIGH



Racing commentary

Eydon Hall. It proved impossible to pass without stopping to lean over the fence and dream about her future. When she left the farm for the auction ring in 1994, she fulfilled our expectations when she became the most expensive yearling sold in Europe. Ironically, to judge by the fortunes of previous

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

2.00 1. Senior El Barbas (2-1) 2. Call & A Day (4-7) 3. Moly Moly (11-2) 4. n. n. 2.35 1. Salsabil (16-1) 2. Amanto (6-1) 3. Direct Route (3-1) 4. n. n. 3.00 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 3.30 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 4.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 4.45 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 5.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 5.45 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 6.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 6.45 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 7.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 7.45 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 8.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 8.45 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. Big Mist (7-2) 3. Elton (10-1) 4. n. n. 9.15 1. Moly Moly (11-2) 2. 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Schoolboy referee asserts his authority over men twice his age

Pupil takes charge on rugby field

BY ALISON KERVIN

THE woman who answered the telephone in Ben Chapeland's dormitory could not hide her enthusiasm for the school's new prodigy. "He's a very talented young man," she said, the enthusiasm dripping from her voice. "He is doing his A levels here at Sir Roger Manwood School and he speaks two languages."

Chapeland's bilingualism and academic prowess are indeed most worthy, but his greatest distinction and the reason for his celebrity status at school, is his skill as a rugby referee.

At 19, he is the youngest referee on the Kent Society books. This Saturday, he faces his biggest test as he referees a match between the second XV's of two clubs in London 11. For a 19-year-old who



Chapeland sharpens his refereeing skills during a match at Sir Roger Manwood School, where he is an A-level student

is still at school, the pressures of trying to command respect from men twice his age must be enormous, but Chapeland is undeterred.

"I might be only 19, but out there they call me Sir," he said. "You have to take control. Referees have got to have leadership qualities. The first exercise that arises for blowing up, I do. I use it to assert myself."

Chapeland started refereeing after deciding that he would not progress significantly as a player. After acquiring the Rugby Football Union preliminary coaching award, he wrote to Twickenham to inquire about refereeing courses, and the school contacted the Kent Referee Society. It had no reservations about him refereeing despite his tender years and, 18 months ago, he signed up for a Pilkington young referees course. The programme involved him successfully officiating ten 15-a-side games over a three-month period, as well as acting as a touch judge in an adult match.

He also sat an examination in

which he had to solve 100 theoretical situations in 40 minutes. His score of 87.5 was the second highest in the country on that paper. He then began his refereeing career in earnest.

"The first game I ever refereed was at school," he said. "Our under-14s played and, although I was new to it, it wasn't difficult because it was all one-way traffic, so it was easy to referee. The hardest games are the ones which are closer. I've also found that it's much harder to referee your own age-group than it is to referee adults. Adults eventually just put up with me, children take longer to learn."

Chapeland is keen to assert himself as a "no-nonsense" referee and thinks that his ability to

spot and deal with foul play is one of his biggest strengths. "My conscience makes it impossible for me to cop out on foul play," he said. "You need to be a disciplinarian in this game. Too many referees are so keen to make it an attractive game that they let some things go."

"A good referee is fair and consistent. Players say that consistency is the most important thing of all. I think a good referee is someone who can adapt his refereeing to the game while staying fair so that, at the end of the game, everyone can come off the field having enjoyed it."

"I view myself as the 31st playmaker, but the players are in charge of the game — everything I do is in response to them. I

suppose I'm like an A-level examiner. The players write the game and I go and mark it — correct it where it's gone wrong."

Chapeland's sophisticated insight and analysis of the art of refereeing has earned him considerable respect in the sport. He has been told that he has an inbuilt authority that earns him immediate attention, and he has an ability to assess the game that is rare in someone so young.

"When I referee, I try to ensure enjoyment for all, respect for the opposition and gentlemanly conduct," he said. "I make sure that no one is stupid, and that the game is played with the right spirit — for example, players clapping each other off the field. Players just don't realise how

hard it is to referee. They don't realise that you have good days and bad days like they do. It's also hard at first because refereeing is all about opinion, which puts a lot of pressure on you. For example, a few weeks ago, I sent someone off and it ruined my weekend. The player concerned had broken someone's nose. I looked confident, and people said that I did the right thing, but I still found it hard."

Chapeland rates Derek Bevan and Ed Morrison as two of the referees whom he admires most, and his twin goals are to referee with Bevan's no-nonsense approach and have a crack at his record of having refereed more internationals than any other official.

Memory of lows eclipsed by highs

BT
Global Challenge
THE TIMES

Lucy Duncan, the winner of one of two berths reserved by The Times on the BT Global Challenge, describes her first training sail, and the good and bad moments of life at sea, as she prepares for the start of the 30,000-mile yacht race. Her lack of a yachting background does little to deter her from the rigours that await in what promises to be a stern struggle against the prevailing winds and currents.

Sickness was not something that had crossed my mind. Childhood memories of holidays on the ferry to the Isles of Scilly are of everyone else being sick but not me. I was thus feeling pretty smug last week when I volunteered to go below on board the BT Global Challenge training yacht, to sort out a change. Luckily, the "heads" (toilet) is right next to the sail locker, which was just as well, because I succumbed like everyone else.

My four-day "induction sail" was an eye-opener and a big step forward in my preparations for the race, which starts from Southampton in September when 14 identical yachts will set sail on what, for all of us, will be the adventure of a lifetime. On board in Plymouth, I found myself part of a motley collection of other "late starters". One of my biggest fears had been that my lack of sailing experience would make me a liability on a 67-foot racing yacht. This does not seem to be the case, with a lot of people on the same steep learning curve as me.

The first two days at sea were perfect, light winds giving us the ideal opportunity to get to know the boat. We were also introduced to the "man overboard" drill, which includes the golden rule "don't go overboard in the first place". Judged by the time it took our novice crew to pick up our "man" — a flag, not a human — the rule is a sound one.

Having been lulled into a false sense of security for the first two days, the third brought the reality of rough weather. The wind reached force five — a mere breeze compared to what we are going to get in the Southern Ocean — but it rendered breakfast superfluous.

One fellow crew, Paul, was not as lucky as I had been in the sail locker. While sitting in a fold in the mainsail, trying to attach a rope to the boom, he inquired of the skipper if this was a good place to be sick. The reply in the negative was too late. I found managing the huge winches very tiring. A few months ago a

midwifery colleague, noticing my rather puny arms, suggested that press-ups should be part of my preparation for "the world's toughest yacht race". I wish I had taken her advice. It was not until trying to change gear on the drive home that I realised just how stiff my arms were.

There was a general sigh of relief when we retreated behind the breakwater at Plymouth harbour after our last day's sailing. I have never appreciated a hot shower so much, though I fear these will be in short supply in the Roaring Forties.

Lesley, another of the crew, summed it up by comparing it to

having a baby — particularly apt given my experiences delivering hundreds of them. At the time, you think "never again" but, when it is over, you remember only the good things and, before you know it, you decide to do it again.

Martin Ley, the training skipper, told us that sailing is always like this. The highs are high and the lows are grim, but the highs make it worthwhile. During our week, the highs were fantastic watching a total lunar eclipse from the Fal estuary, the feeling of companionship with people I had known for four days, and the fulfilment of having done some real ocean sailing — albeit only ten miles from Plymouth. I will definitely be going back for more.



Duncan: "going back for more"

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 15 1996

Court of Appeal

When facts were known for action

Relying on defendant's assertion

Busby v Cooper

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Schiemann
[Judgment April 2]
Section 14A of the Limitation Act 1980, inserted by section 1 of the Latent Damage Act 1986, applicable to a negligence claim not involving personal injuries where the relevant facts were not known at the date the cause of action accrued, provided by subsection (4)(a) one overall time limit in which the claim could be brought, and an extension of that primary period if the provisions of subsection (4)(b) were applicable.

Accordingly, where a claimant sought leave to add another party as a defendant to the action after expiry of the primary period but before expiry of the secondary period in subsection (4)(b), the court had jurisdiction to order a trial by way of preliminary issue in respect of any challenge or dispute by the other party as to whether the plaintiff did or did not have the requisite knowledge.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Susan Margaret Busby, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Auld on December 19, 1994, of her appeal from the decision of District Judge Vincent in Truro District Registry on August 26 to set aside his own order of April 11 granting the plaintiff leave to amend the writ and statement of claim to add Mr Anthony J. Lumby as a third defendant to the action.

The plaintiff began proceedings in October 1992 and claimed, as freehold owner of a dwelling in Camborne, Cornwall, purchased in November 1986, damages against the first defendant, Mr M. S. Cooper, a mining architect, for negligent advice and/or breach of contract in respect of a concrete analysis report he made in October 1986 prior to her purchase, and against the second defendant, Abbey National plc, that they negligently recommended the first defendant as a suitable specialist.

Nothing turned on the claim

against the first two defendants. The primary period of limitation expired in November 1992. The plaintiff applied in April 1994 to amend her claim by adding the third defendant on the allegation that he negligently advised the second defendant in October 1986 that the first defendant's report was acceptable for the purposes of the second defendant granting a loan.

She claimed the starting date for section 14A purposes was May 1991 when she first acquired the requisite knowledge, and thus she could avail herself of the secondary period in subsection (4)(b).

The Court of Appeal agreed to assume that service of the amended pleadings on the third defendant was effected before expiry of the secondary period.

Mr Stephen Lowry for the plaintiff, Mr Ian Holtum for the third defendant.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that Mr Justice Auld had held that section 14A(4) of the 1980 Act stipulated two time limits and that the proposed joinder of the third defendant was outside the primary limitation period, which had expired, and was therefore caught by section 35(3) of the 1980 Act. Joinder of the defendant would deprive him of the primary limitation defence. Thus the proper procedure for the plaintiff was to start proceedings against him in a separate action.

His Lordship said that the note to section 14A(4) in *The Supreme Court Practice 1995* (volume 2 p1878) correctly stated that the section had been inserted by the 1986 Act to avoid the injustice which might occur where a cause of action accrued by reason of the existence of damage without the plaintiff being aware of it, and the lapse of the primary limitation period would ordinarily bar the right to bring an action.

did or did not have the requisite knowledge turned on disputed questions of fact, the issue should be tried either at trial or by way of preliminary issue. *Iron Trades Mutual Insurance Co Ltd v J. K. Buckenham Ltd* ([1991] 1 All ER 808).

His Lordship accepted Mr Lowry's construction of section 14A(4) as laying down one overall time limit, since it was quite clear that subsection (4) expressly identified an extension of the primary limitation period laid down in subsection (4)(a), which only came into operation if it expired "later than the primary period". That was also consistent with the wording of section 14A(3) which referred to applicable period in the singular.

Mr Holtum, however, relied strongly on the interrelation between section 35(3) and (3): by virtue of section 35(1) leave to amend, if allowed, would result in automatic relation back to the date when the action commenced (October 1992), and thus would prejudice the third defendant on any case on limitation.

Welsh Development Agency v Redpath Dorman Long Ltd ([1994] 1 WLR 1409, 1423, 1425) held that a plaintiff had such an advantage leave to amend should not be granted.

However, the note in *The Supreme Court Practice 1995* was wrong and the court did not have jurisdiction to order a trial of a preliminary issue on the question of date of knowledge.

The Court of Appeal in *The Welsh Development Agency* (at p1423) categorised section 35(3) as mandatory. Thus the plaintiff's only proper course was to start fresh.

Mr Lowry relied on the Court of Appeal decision in *Davies v Reed Stock & Co Ltd and Another* (unreported), July 26, 1984, which he submitted bore a close similarity to the present case, and vindicated the note in *The Supreme Court Practice 1995* as to the court's jurisdiction to direct a preliminary issue to decide

whether the action was or was not statute-barred.

His Lordship said that the key to the apparent inconsistency between the two cases was that, until leave to amend was formally granted, there was no question of any amendment and therefore no relation back under section 35(1) or any application of section 35(3).

As in the *Davies* case, leave to amend would not be in issue until resolution of the question of the date of knowledge. The point was not addressed in the *Welsh Development Agency* case, nor did any question of ordering trial of a preliminary issue arise.

There was no inconsistency between the cases and his Lordship had no hesitation in following the *Davies* case and holding that there was jurisdiction to order trial of a preliminary issue as to the date of the requisite knowledge.

His Lordship accepted that in *Hewes v David Brown Tractors (Retail) Ltd* ([1991] 4 All ER 30) the Court of Appeal stressed there was a distinction to be drawn in the limitation field between adding a new party to an existing action and starting a fresh action.

Nevertheless, for the reasons already given, it was highly desirable that the case against all three defendants should be in one action and it would be deplorable that the plaintiff should embark on the cumbersome course of issuing fresh proceedings.

The proper place for the proposed defendant to challenge the plaintiff on the date of knowledge should have been at the inter partes hearing before the district judge.

Mr Lowry accepted that he could still seek an order for trial of a preliminary issue if a prompt application was made and should he be successful he would not be joined in the plaintiff's action.

LORD JUSTICE WARD and LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Waller, Hart & Mepharm, Camborne; S. J. Cornish, Tiverton.

Boss Group Ltd v Boss France SA

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Otton
[Judgment April 2]

A plaintiff who, although denying the existence of a contract, sought declaratory relief in England against a defendant domiciled in another convention state, could establish a good arguable case that there were "matters relating to a contract" so as to satisfy one of the essential prerequisites for jurisdiction under article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, incorporated in Schedule 1 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, by relying on the defendant's own assertion that a contract existed between the parties.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Boss Group Ltd, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Garland on April 12, 1995 of their appeal against Master Eyre's dismissal on March 21, 1995 of their action for declaratory relief against the defendants, Boss France SA.

Article 5 provides: "A person domiciled in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued: (1) in matters relating to a contract, in the courts for the

place of performance of the obligation in question..."

Mr David Donaldson, QC and Mr Adrian Briggs for the plaintiff, Mr Thomas Lowe for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that in July 1994 the defendants commenced proceedings in France against the plaintiffs for breach of an exclusive distributorship and obtained an order requiring the plaintiffs to continue to supply them with equipment.

In September 1994 the plaintiffs served an English writ on the defendants seeking, inter alia, a declaration that there was and had been no contract of distributorship between themselves and the defendants.

The defendants issued a summons to set aside or stay the English proceedings, arguing that the court's special jurisdiction under article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention.

The French proceedings were of a preliminary nature so that the French courts were not "first seized" of the matter and it is required other convention states to decline jurisdiction.

It was no answer to a claim for jurisdiction under article 5(1) that the respondent asserted that no contract ever came into existence. See *Effie v Kastner* ([1982] ECR 825). The word "contract" could not be read as only including cases where the existence of a contract

was unchallengeable - or unchallenged. There were "matters relating to a contract" in the present case. It was true that the plaintiffs asserted that no such contract existed, but the defendants asserted the contrary: that did not make article 5(1) inapplicable.

Article 5(1) was not confined to actions to enforce a contract or to obtain recompense for its breach to "matters relating to a contract". The defendants submitted that assertions were not enough: that the plaintiffs had to satisfy the court that there was a good arguable case that the essential prerequisites for jurisdiction existed; and that since the plaintiffs claimed there was no contract it followed that they could not fulfil that requirement.

His Lordship agreed with the premises on which that argument was based but the conclusion did not follow.

Article 5(1) allowed a party to be sued in matters relating to a contract in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question. That party in the present case was the defendant company.

It was illogical and wrong for that party to assert that there was a contract and that the plaintiffs had broken it, while the defendants had done so in France, relying on article 5(1), while simultaneously contending the contrary in England to avoid the application of

article 5(1). The plaintiffs had established a good arguable case that there was a matter relating to a contract by relying on the fact that that was what the defendants contended against them.

If article 5(1) applied, it was the duty of the court to apply it: jurisdiction under the Brussels Convention was not a matter of discretion, nor did it depend on considerations of forum conveniens.

The English courts looked very carefully at proceedings for negative declarations. That did not mean, however, that caution in that regard could be used as a substantive ground for declining jurisdiction under the Convention, for that would derogate from the Convention.

It did mean that the court would be astute in such cases to prevent the article from being used in frivolous or vexatious cases, just as it was astute to stop summarily cases where the plaintiff sought to establish a contract could not show that there was a serious issue which called for a trial for its proper determination: see *Tesam v Shuh* ([1990] 1 L Pr 149, 158).

The plaintiffs' proceedings were not objectionable on those grounds.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL and LORD JUSTICE OTTON agreed.

Solicitors: Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering; D. J. Freeman.

No local connection

Time in jail abroad

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Benniche

A homeless person with priority need and who was a devout Muslim had not established a local connection with Westminster, for the purposes of sections 61 and 67 of the Housing Act 1985, because of his wish to be able to attend regularly, preferably on a daily basis, the Central London Mosque and to be near a Muslim school.

housing application was referred to Elmbridge Council.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that before moving to Elmbridge the applicant and his wife attended the mosque at least once a day and at weekends. They wanted their children to attend the Islamic School in Brent.

Regina v Curtis Howard

Discretionary life prisoners who had served time in custody in a foreign jurisdiction awaiting extradition should be entitled to have that period taken into account in specifying the tariff period under the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

whether or not the 27 months spent in custody abroad awaiting extradition to the United Kingdom should be taken into account when specifying the relevant period under section 34 of the 1991 Act in relation to a discretionary life sentence.

It would be wrong in principle to allow the whole of the time spent abroad to be deducted from the tariff period specified on the ground that the appellant had made "an impudent attempt" (see *R v Scallies and Rachel* ([1988] 7 Cr App R (S) 395, 397)) to avoid extradition by making a number of applications and appeals while in custody in the USA.

Accordingly their Lordships concluded that the appropriate order was to allow 12 of the 27 months.

West Water Authority, the closest being Portmouth serving Redruth, and North Cliffs serving Camborne. Portmouth was screened in 1991.

A two-year survey of beaches in 1990-91 by the National Rivers Authority placed Portmouth in the worst of four categories depending on the degree of contamination by sewage related debris. There had been no comparable survey since 1991 to assess the effect of the screening. During 1995 an average of one kilogram per day wet weight of sewage related material was collected, including sanitary towels and condoms which users of the beach found offensive.

There was pressure on the council, led by a body called Surfers against Sewage, for action including action by the district council under the 1990 Act.

The senior principal environmental health officer assembled evidence for submission to the environmental and community services committee on the condition of the beach. A report was prepared for the meeting of June 20, 1995, leading to the resolution which was under challenge.

The committee resolved not to take action under the Act but to continue monitoring.

Under section 79(1)(a) of the Act the council had a duty to investi-

gate "any accumulation or deposit which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance". Under section 80 once it was found that a statutory nuisance existed, the council had a duty, not a discretion, to serve a notice either requiring abatement or requiring steps to be taken.

There was no decision of the committee that there was or was not a statutory nuisance, simply a decision that it was not "appropriate" to serve a notice. That was a word which implied an exercise of discretion rather than a judgment of fact.

The resolution did not comply with the council's duty under section 80. It was fine as far as it went but it did not deal with the critical issue. A declaration was granted that the resolution was not a valid discharge of the council's duty. The council was under an obligation to reconsider.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Mrs D. R. M. H. Hayes, Truro; Mr J. C. Jolley, Exeter.

Council has duty to act on pollution

Regina v Howes

No application for leave to cross-examine a rape victim could properly be made unless defence counsel had instructions which provided reasonable grounds for his assertions.

complainant was sought under section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, as amended by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, although the defence need not show that they had in their possession evidence to prove the correctness of their assertion, there had to be some other basis on which it could be shown that the questions would be properly asked, for otherwise counsel would have an undefined right to embark on an inquiry of the kind which section 2 was designed to prevent.

At paragraph 610(b) of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of England and Wales (1990, 4th amendment 1994) the suggestion sought to be made must appear to be supported by reasonable grounds.

MONDAY APRIL 15 1996

START COLLECTING

Win for

Holidays include mountain bike, visits of Morocco, a 20-day trek, holiday in Nepal, elephant trek, raising the River, Thailand, exploring the, angle by foot, an overland, through Europe, Middle East and, white-water

Save up with our

£15 EXODUS ADVENTURE HOLIDAY DISCOUNT VOUCHER 1

START COLLECTING OUR HOLIDAY DISCOUNT VOUCHERS TODAY FOR HUGE SAVINGS ON ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Win an adventure holiday for two every year for life

Holidays include:

- mountain biking in the wilds of Morocco
- a 20-day trekking holiday in Nepal
- elephant trekking and cruising the River Kwai in Thailand
- exploring the Amazon jungle by foot and canoe
- an overland trip through Europe, the Middle East and Asia
- white-water rafting



Imagine going white-water rafting in Nepal or Peru, bungee jumping at Victoria Falls, riding across a river in Thailand on the back of an elephant or cycling in Vietnam. Only in your dreams? Not any more because today *The Times*, in association with Exodus Travels, gives you the chance to win an adventure holiday for two people every year for the rest of your life from a choice of more than 200 adrenalin-pumping holidays in 65 countries, worth up to £1,000 each.

And as a reader of *The Times* you can enjoy substantial savings of up to £250 on many of the holidays we will be featuring by taking advantage of our discount vouchers below.

Over the next three weeks we will transport you to some of the most exciting places on earth: along the Silk Road, on expeditions to Kathmandu, swimming with sea lions in the Galapagos, and joining the locals at the festival of Timkat in Ethiopia.

We will show you how you could explore the remote region of Kamchatka in Siberia by heli-

copter and truck or climb to the Everest base 17,000 feet up in the Himalayas.

But not all our action-packed adventure holidays require you to be in peak condition. Iran, Bhutan or Mongolia, to name but a few, will not leave you breathless, except when you look at the view.

There are holidays ranging from one week or 31 weeks. You can camp in deserts and jungles or stay in comfortable hotels or modern mountain lodges. You can travel by plane, train, bus and more.

Even if you choose well-known destinations like Mallorca or Tuscany, you will be surprised at the adventures you can have off the beaten track. What you are guaranteed with these holidays is to be miles and miles away from it all, where you will meet only local people, not other tourists.

The winner of our adventure holidays for life will be chosen in a prize draw. All you have to do is collect 15 out of 18 tokens which will be published in *The Times* until May 4 and send them to us on an official entry form.

For your chance to win an adventure holiday for life for two, collect 15 of the 18 adventure tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* from today until May 4, 1996. Send them with the

completed entry form to: *The Times/Exodus Adventure Holidays Prize Draw*, 16, Whitefriars St, London, EC8S 2NG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 15, 1996.

The prize draw competition is open to all *Times* readers over 18. (Anyone over 65, or 45 on certain holidays over 31 days' duration, must satisfy Exodus Travels they are capable of taking part on their chosen holiday.) The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of May 15, 1996. There is no cash alternative either in the case of the winner not taking a holiday in any one year, or not taking another person. The prize is not transferable. The winner's choice of holiday will be subject to availability. The prize holiday can only be taken once in any one calendar year. The prize draw is only open to UK residents.

THE TIMES
WIN AN
EXODUS
The Different Holiday
ADVENTURE
HOLIDAY
FOR LIFE
TOKEN 1

ADVENTURE HOLIDAY PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

Please enter me into your prize draw with the chance to win a holiday for two every year for the rest of my life. I enclose 15 differently numbered Adventure Holidays for Life tokens. Send this form to: *The Times/Exodus Adventure Holidays Prize Draw*, 16, Whitefriars St, London, EC8S 2NG. Closing date for entries is May 15, 1996.

Mr/Ms/Other: _____ Initials: _____

Suriname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Home phone: _____

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further offers from *The Times* or associated companies ☐

Save up to £250 on holidays with our discount vouchers

Readers of *The Times* are offered substantial savings on the cost of Exodus Travels adventure holidays by collecting our discount vouchers.

Starting today, and continuing until Saturday May 4, we will be publishing a total of 18 Adventure Holiday discount vouchers. The vouchers published this week will add up to £75. Next week we will print another £75 worth of vouchers and in week three £100 worth of vouchers will appear — giving you a possible saving on your holiday of £250.

Vouchers adding up to £75 can be redeemed against any Exodus Holiday of seven days or more in duration and these six vouchers will entitle you to £75 off any holiday you choose.

The second week's six vouchers are also worth a total of £75 and these, together with the vouchers from week one, add up to a £150 saving which can be offset against any holiday of 15 days and over.

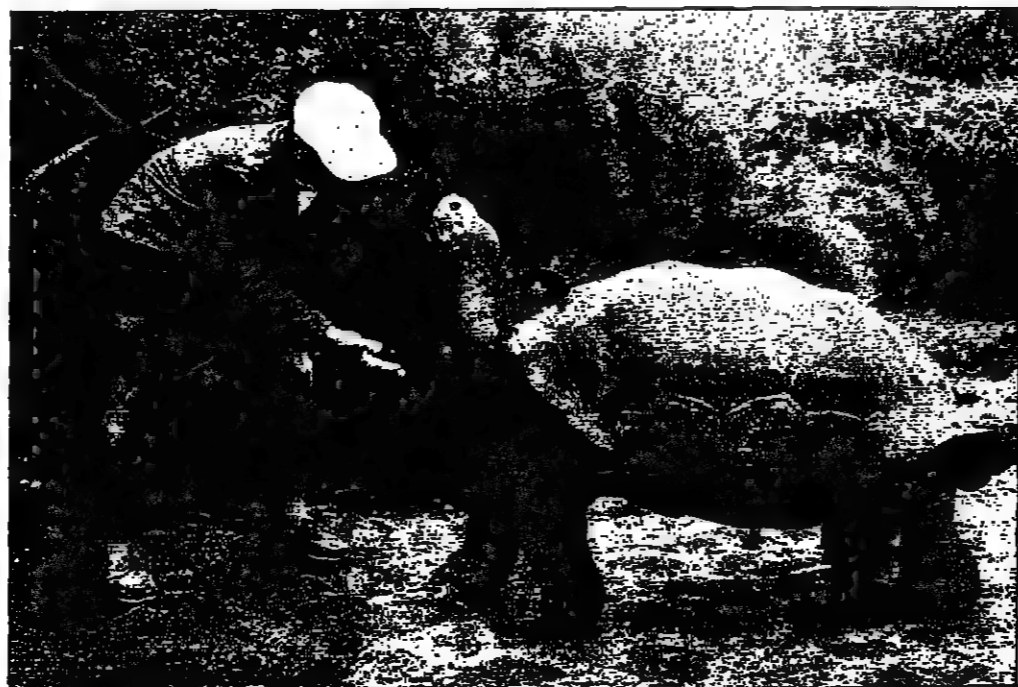
The six vouchers which will appear in week three will be worth a total £100 and, with the rest of the vouchers, will add up to a total of up to £250 which can be used against the cost of any holiday of 22 days or over taken with Exodus Travels.

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR DISCOUNT

To claim your discount from Exodus Travels you must attach the vouchers to the official booking form selected from one of the company's brochures when you book your holiday. The vouchers must accompany the completed booking form and cannot be sent in at a later date. The discount vouchers will not be validated retrospectively.

THE TIMES
£15
EXODUS
The Different Holiday
ADVENTURE
HOLIDAY
DISCOUNT
VOUCHER 1
VALUE 0.0001p

DISCOUNT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
This discount offer applies to any holiday in the four Exodus 1996 brochures (Overland Expeditions, Discovery Holidays, Biking Adventures and Walking Holidays) booked before December 31, 1996 on bookings made direct



with Exodus. The offer applies to UK residents only, cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount offers and applies to new bookings only.

The vouchers have no cash value (value 0.0001p) and there is no cash alternative. Only one set of vouchers per client per booking allowed. No photocopy vouchers will be accepted. Age and fitness guidelines apply to certain holidays. All readers who wish to take an Exodus Travels holiday must have suitable travel-holiday insurance. All bookings made with *Times* vouchers must be made with Exodus Travels directly and not through any third party. All bookings are subject to availability. All clients must read and sign Exodus Travels' booking form (available on request from Exodus) before their booking can be accepted. Exodus Travels' usual booking conditions will apply to all holidays.

HOLIDAY DURATION	MAXIMUM DISCOUNT
7-14 Days	up to £75
15-21 Days	up to £150
22 Days+	up to £250

Exodus is the UK's leading adventure travel company with more than 20 years' experience of organising small group safaris, overland expeditions and Mountain walking holidays throughout the world. Exodus is a fully ATOL licensed and bonded tour operator and a member of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. Exodus Travels Ltd, 9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT or call: 0181-675 5550.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE HOLIDAYS CALL 0181 675 5550

AN AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE ILLUSTRATED WITH 250 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

A £12.99 Fodor's Guide to Shooting Great Travel Pictures for only £1.50



The Times has joined with Fodor's to offer you an indispensable guide to getting the best from your holiday photographs. The 214-page colour guide, normally £12.99, is available at £1.50 to cover postage and packaging.

It gives essential tips and no-nonsense advice on the following photographic themes and subjects: landscapes, architecture, portraits and animals; shooting conditions including humidity, rain, dramatic lighting; compositional devices such as horizon placement and frames-within-frames; and camera technique with tips on exposure, depth of field, filters and camera choice.

SAVE 25% ON TRAVEL GUIDES. You can also enjoy a 25% discount off the cost of any other Fodor's Gold Guide by placing an order through Stanfords' mail order service or visiting one of its three London shops. Fodor's is the world's leading publisher of travel guides to the US and over 200 other countries, regions and major cities worldwide. The Gold Guides feature information on all aspects of travel including the best accommodation, restaurants, shopping and sightseeing as well as comprehensive maps and complete driving and walking tours.

Stanfords is the world's finest map and travel booksellers, with over 30,000 titles to choose from. The offer applies until the end of April. Simply call the mail order hotline number 0171-836 1321 to claim your discount and for details of the Fodor's Guide best suited to your holiday plans. A charge of £1.50 per book to cover postage and packaging will be applied to mail orders.

HOW TO GET YOUR GUIDE

Collect four Fodor's tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and send them to the address on the order form which appeared on Saturday. Enclose a cheque/PO for £1.50 to cover p&p. Orders must be received by April 30. The offer is subject to availability.

THE TIMES
Fodor's
TOKEN 2

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
Diageo	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Heineken	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Guinness	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
BANKS				
Barclays	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
HSBC	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Midland	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST				
Asahi	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Beck's	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Carlsberg	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
Unilever	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Roche	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Novartis	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
ELECTRICITY				
British Energy	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
EDF	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Enel	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
ELECTRONIC & ELECT				
Hitachi	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
NEC	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Panasonic	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
ENGINEERING				
Siemens	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
ABB	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Alstom	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
Volvo	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
Scania	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
MAN	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
Unilever	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
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HEALTHCARE				
Roche	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
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Glaxo	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
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Telecom	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
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RETAILERS, FOOD				
Asda	108.50	+0.50	4.8%	17.1
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Legendary English Shoes

LONDON • PARIS • NEW YORK • MILAN
BRUSSELS • HONG KONG • TOKYO • MOSCOW

History
falls hos

RESULTS AND
STATISTICS

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: AG Holdings, Wards Stores.
 Finals: Amey, Arcadian International, Arlen, Britannia Group, Dinkie Heel, Johnson Fry, Olives Property, Simons & Co.
 Economic statistics: Producer prices (March).

TOMORROW

Interims: None scheduled.
 Finals: Automotive Precision Holdings, Boosey & Hawkes, Cobham, Gradus Group, Hungarian Inv Co, S Jerome (Holdings), Peptide Therapeutics Group, Saltire, Tescos, TIE Rack.
 Economic statistics: New construction orders (February), details of gift auction.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Fidelity Special Values, Five Oaks Invs, Smiths Industries.
 Finals: Havellock Europa, HTR Income & Growth, French Connection Group, Ryan Group, Signet Group.
 Economic statistics: Unemployment (March), average earnings (February), unit labour costs (February), labour force survey (December-February), minutes of monthly monetary meeting (March 7) between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

THURSDAY

Interims: SmithKline Beecham (Q1), WEW Group.
 Finals: Laura Ashley, Barlows, Bloomsbury Publishing, Bodycote International, Henry Boot & Sons, Calm Energy, Cassell, Era Group, Foreign & Colonial Pacific IT, Fortune Oil, Henderson Highland Trust, Highcroft Inv Trst, House of Fraser, Kin Capital, Jackson Group, MICE Group, Morgan Grenfell Latin American, RMC Group, Stylo.
 Economic statistics: Motor vehicle production (March), PSBR (March), retail prices (March), British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: Dumyat Inv Trst, Vision Group.
 Finals: Automotive Products, Clarke, Nickolls & Coombe, HC Silingsby.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Tesco results set tone for food sector



Sir Ian MacLaurin, who is expected to announce a healthy rise in Tesco's full-year profits

TESCO: Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Britain's biggest supermarket group, will paint a clearer picture of conditions in the food retail sector and is expected to check in a healthy rise in full-year profits when Tesco reports tomorrow.

Tesco has enjoyed a rise in its share price recently on news that petrol price rises are sticking. But news is awaited on how much the recent petrol price war waged between supermarkets and oil companies has dented profits and what impact its Clubcard loyalty scheme is having in wooing customers from rival chains.

The petrol price cuts were slowed only recently when rising wholesale costs prompted a 2p a litre increase by most players. Analysts think that gross margins at petrol retailing, which accounts for about 12 per cent of Tesco's ex-VAT sales, may have been halved.

Mike Dennis, of NatWest Securities, expects Tesco to report pre-tax profits of £677 million, up from £595 million. Market forecasts range from £665 million to £700 million. An improved dividend of 9.75p (8.6p) is predicted. Analysts expect like-for-like sales to have grown by 9-10 per cent in 1995, but that may have slipped to nearer 4-5 per cent. However, they point out that food price inflation of about 4 per cent brings sales growth down.

HOUSE OF FRASER: The department stores group is one of a number of leading retailing names reporting this week and is likely to look to the future with greater confidence after its recent boardroom shake-up. Last week, it named John Coleman, 43, former managing director of Texas Homecare, to replace Andrew Jennings, who was sacked as managing director a month ago after unrest among shareholders. After a loss in the first half, Panmure Gordon expects full-year profits, due on Thursday, to nearly halve to £15 million, against £28 million previously. Market forecasts range from £15 million to £17 million.

RMC GROUP: The building materials supplier is expected to

report dramatically higher earnings on Thursday and will also provide the market with a clearer picture of any upturn in its sector. UBS has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £335 million, against £283 million last time. Market forecasts range from £320 million to £335 million. A dividend of 25p (23p) is predicted.

UBS expects weaker German trading in the second half to have an impact on full-year results and reduced expectation for the current year, but the downside is seen as limited and the current rating undemanding.

SIGNET GROUP: Wednesday's annual results from the UK's biggest jeweller will be largely irrelevant in comparison with possible news on the sale of several of its UK businesses. Last week, it moved to quash speculation that it was on the brink of announcing the sale of two of its chains. The company announced in January that it was inviting offers for Ernest Jones and H Samuel, its UK jewellery businesses. The price tag is thought to be £300 million. In a statement, the group said the sale was proceeding and a further announcement would not be made in the immediate future.

Final pre-tax profits after exceptional items are forecast at between £20 million and £25 million, against £8.1 million. No dividend is anticipated.

LAURA ASHLEY: Results on Thursday should reveal the resumption of dividend payouts after the group withdrew payments for the year to the end of January, 1994. For years, the fabrics and home furnishings group maintained the total annual payout at 0.1p, but UBS expects

an improvement to 0.5p. UBS has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £7 million, reversing the £30.6 million slump into the red last time. Market forecasts range from £7 million to £10 million.

TIE RACK: Joan D'Olier, of NatWest Securities, expects TIE Rack to report full-year pre-tax profits of about £8.1 million (£7.4 million) tomorrow, although much will depend on how the group fared during the important Christmas trading period. A dividend of 3.25p (2.25p) is predicted. TIE Rack's expansion plans continue and NatWest believes initial results from its first shop in Japan should look promising. But there is concern about margin erosion, owing to the costs of establishing new operations and higher raw material costs.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: Stronger trading in its core operations should help the aerospace electronics to medical systems group to a healthy rise in first-half profits on Wednesday. UBS is looking for interim pre-tax profits to rise to £64 million, against £58 million. Market forecasts range from £64 million to £66 million. An improved dividend of 5.55p (5.05p) is predicted. Analysts will also be interested in how the recent strike action at Boeing, one of the group's largest customers, and the slowdown in civil aircraft production is affecting deliveries.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: The Anglo-American drugs group is expected to show weak growth in its first quarter when it reports on Thursday. Antibiotic sales are expected to be hit by a mild influenza season in January and February, compared with high levels of the illness last year. The firm's hepatitis B vaccine will also see less growth as a French vaccination programme that boosted sales in the first quarter of 1995 quarter has ended. Analysts forecast pre-exceptional pre-tax profits of between £375 million to £380 million, against £360 million last time. A dividend of 3.5p (3.2p) is anticipated. Attention will focus on current trading and prospects.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Prices point the way

A FULL menu of British economic statistics this week starts today with March producer prices. Input prices are expected to rise 0.3 per cent, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, pushing down the annual rate of input price inflation to 2.7 per cent from 3 per cent in February.

Output prices are expected to have risen by only 0.2 per cent, taking annual inflation down to 3.5 per cent from 3.7 per cent the previous month. Excluding food, drink and tobacco the rate is expected to fall to 3.2 per cent from 3.4 per cent.

Tomorrow sees February's new construction orders and Wednesday unemployment statistics for March, average earnings for February and the latest pay report from IRS for March. Unemployment is expected to have fallen by about 7,500, according to MMS, while average earnings annual growth should remain at 3.25 per cent.

On Thursday, retail price figures are released for March. Headline inflation is expected to have risen 0.3 per cent, pushing its annual rate down to 2.6 per cent from 2.7 per cent in February. The underlying inflation rate is predicted to fall to 2.8 per cent from 2.9 per cent. The RPI measure, which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, should remain unchanged at 2.5 per cent. Also on Thursday is the crucial figure for the public sector borrowing requirement for the last month of the tax year. The MMS consensus is for a requirement in March, traditionally a month of heavy departmental spending, of £10 billion, which would give a full-year PSBR of nearly £33 billion — well above the £29 billion forecast in the November Budget.

Overseas, attention will be on Thursday's Bundesbank council meeting amid continuing speculation about German interest rate cuts and tomorrow's March US industrial production report.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Tesco, Alexon, Parkland, Cordiant, William Sinclair, Robert Independent on Sunday. Buy Hammarson, MY Holdings, AAF Industries Avoid Hunting Sell Prudential. Sunday Telegraph: Buy B Elliott, Alexon, Doeflex, MICE Group. The Observer: Sell British Airways. Mail on Sunday: Buy Peptide Therapeutics, Kwik-Fit.

GILT-EDGED

History shows fixed-interest market falls hostage to political uncertainty

Following its defeat in the Staffordshire South-East by-election, the Conservative majority in Parliament has been reduced to just one. Its position is so fragile that one more death or defection will seriously impair its ability to remain in government. John Major may choose to soldier on in a minority administration or, more probably, reach some sort of understanding with the Ulster Unionists. But whichever option is preferred, there can be little doubt that the prospect of this Parliament running its full term is receding. In view of this, investors clearly need to assess the likely impact the general election will have on the fixed-interest market.

A key point in this respect is that opinion polls are continuing to indicate a Labour victory. Although the Conservatives have gained some ground in recent months, their handling of the BSE crisis suggests that this improvement is unlikely to be sustained. Typically, when Labour has been expected to win an election the gilt market has performed poorly, both in nominal and relative terms. Labour was ahead of the

Conservatives in the run-up to the elections of 1966, 1970, October 1974 and 1992. On each occasion, gilt yields rose in the three months to polling day — the average rise was 47 basis points.

The contrast is provided by the performance of the gilt market in the approach to the elections in 1979, 1983 and 1987 when the Conservatives have been ahead in the opinion polls. In the run-up to each one of these elections yields fell — the average decline was around 100 basis points in the three months to the poll and some 15 basis points in the final month. It may be argued, with some justification, that this time the gilt market has already discounted a change in government; after all, Labour has enjoyed a healthy lead in the opinion polls for more than three years. That said, in the run-up to five of the seven elections considered above, the party ahead in the opinion polls went on to win the subsequent election. It is not inconceivable that similar assumptions may have been

made in the past. While the gilt market undoubtedly adjusts its expectations some way ahead of the election, as the poll looms investors are likely to focus more specifically on the implications of a change in government. That is particularly true in the case of overseas investors.

Looking back to the last election in 1992, it is interesting that gilts were particularly bad performers in the six weeks prior to the poll. Mean-

A change of government will lead the gilt market to demand a greater risk premium than exists now

sured against German bunds, the yield differential widened by 60 basis points over this period to reach 200 basis points. The current spread between the two markets is just under 180 basis points, which represents an increase of around 40 basis points since the tail end of last year. Direct comparisons between the two periods may be a little inap-

propriate, however. Firstly, the approach of EMU has increased the risk premium attached to DM-denominated assets. Second, in 1992 sterling was a member of the exchange-rate mechanism, which should have ensured a relatively stable outlook.

Labour has, meanwhile, made significant changes since Neil Kinnock's second attempt to win a general election. Gordon Brown has been at pains to emphasise the rules and targets that will be at the heart of its conduct of monetary and fiscal policies. On inflation, some form of target is certain to be maintained although it could be a broader measure such as nominal GDP. It is also difficult to see Labour reducing the influence of the Bank of England. Indeed, greater powers may eventually be granted in conjunction with its plans to make the Bank a more representative and accountable body.

On public borrowing, the Shadow Chancellor has enthusiastically championed the "golden rule" — that is, borrowing will be allowed only to finance investment spending. In theory, this is a little less restrictive than the present government's objective to balance the Budget over the course of the economic cycle. In practice, there is likely to be little difference.

While we do not believe there is a lot to choose between what is on offer from the Conservatives and Labour on macroeconomic policy, the uncertainty that will result from a change of government will still lead the gilt market to demand a greater risk premium than currently exists. The spread over German bunds could widen by a further 20 to 30 basis points to reflect this.

Such a move would still only imply a very modest real yield differential between the two markets. If the Tories were to pull off an unexpected victory the gilt market should bounce strongly. On the other hand, if the opinion polls prove accurate the market is likely, at best, to trade sideways in the immediate aftermath.

SIMON RUBINSOHN
AND MIKE LENHOFF
Capel Curre Myers
Capital Management

Spot of rot mars bid by Rentokil

RED faces all round at Rentokil, whose advisers Lazard, have scored a hat trick of blunders in the hostile bid for BET. Not content with sending a "highly confidential" letter meant for the Rentokil company secretary to BET's offices in Stratton Street, or with forgetting to scrub the codename "Rugby" from the Stock Exchange announcement of BET's defence document on the same day as the real Rugby Group announced a 40 per cent profits fall, they have gone one further. Attached to a submission they put on display at Denton Hall, Rentokil's solicitor, was a credit facility agreement detailing agency fees of £25,000 per annum per facility payable to NatWest. Handwritten in bold across the top: NOT TO BE ATTACHED.

Banking boast

THE recruitment criterion is ruthless at Barclays where the head of personal banking boasts of sacking someone at the tender age of 21. When Tim Parkes took a sabbatical, working at a college in Cheltenham for a year, he sharpened up the union bar.



Knight: fast travel

starting with the sacking of an unscrupulous member of staff. Parkes was also responsible for the college ban on Barclays cheques.

TREASURY Minister Angela Knight scoots off from London this morning to deliver a speech on board the royal yacht in Toronto, promoting the UK financial services industry, before making a return flight 24 hours later.

Money talks

REPORTERS at the EU's conference on aid for Bosnia found themselves treated to a rare example of glasnost on Saturday when most speeches

and pledges from the 55 donor nations were piped through to the press room. But just as the world's press was totting up the pledges to see if the \$1.2 billion target had been achieved the sound was cut. Censorship? No. "They forgot to turn the sound off after the opening speeches," said an EU official.

THE turnover at Eastern Natural Gas who signed the deal with the Rugby Football Union to supply 42,500 tonnes of gas to England supporters' HQ, was a Welshman and a Cardiff Arms Park ticket-holder. Arnie Jones, area sales manager, cut the deal on his first visit to Twickenham.

Early bids

BONHAMS opens its doors at 7.30am for the first time tomorrow to attract buyers before they go to work in the City. The Knightsbridge and Chelsea salesrooms will be serving free coffee and croissants to customers who arrive early enough to park without risking the wrath of traffic wardens. Behind the rise is managing director Christopher Elwes, who rises daily at 6.45am.

MORAG PRESTON

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Emirates

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GOOD NEWS: THE AIRLINE VOTED 'BEST CARRIER TO THE MIDDLE EAST 95' NOW SERVES DUBAI 21 TIMES A WEEK FROM LONDON AND 5 TIMES FROM MANCHESTER. CALL 0171 808 8008 (LON) OR 0161 437 8007 (MAN). OR CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

Firms at highest risk now, says CCN

THE risk of company insolvency is higher now than at the end of the last recession due to the higher proportion of smaller, owner-managed businesses, according to CCN, the credit reference agency.

In a study of 500,000 British firms it found 24 per cent in danger of failing at the end of 1993. That percentage had risen to 29.1 per cent at the end of last year and another 23.6 per cent were "high risk".

Venture bill

Worldwide investment by British venture capital firms totalled £2.5 billion during 1995, up 22 per cent on the previous year, according to the British Venture Capital Association. Some £2.1 billion, or 84 per cent of the total, was invested within the United Kingdom.

Pay bind

British firms still spend too high a proportion of their earnings on pay and this is holding back investment, a new study by Professor Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, shows.

Imro plan

Imro, the regulator for fund managers, will today publish a series of proposals that are believed to include initiatives to give private investors greater protection.

Age block

A survey by the Institute of Management of 1,600 managers found that two-thirds supported legislation, including laws, to restrict the use of age in job advertisements.

Motor insurance rates set to rise by 10% this year

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MOTOR insurance rates are set to rise by 10 per cent over the next 12 months because underwriters can no longer sustain the current low levels, a leading motoring organisation has claimed.

The RAC, which uses a panel of 20 household insurers, says some companies are writing unprofitable business in their attempt to gain and retain market share.

Motor insurance has become increasingly competitive over the last seven years, with more than 50 telephone-based companies setting up direct-selling operations.

The RAC believes insurers would like to see price increases of 15 per cent this year.

but are fearful of losing business to rivals by raising premiums too high.

"Our feedback tells us insurers are really hurting," said Nigel Richardson, motor schemes manager with the RAC. "There are some signs of slight premium increases but competition has never been as keen as it is now."

"All insurers want to increase their market share, but some are not under pressure to produce immediate profits and can therefore afford to keep rates low for a couple of months longer than their rivals and attract new business."

The RAC has about 300,000 motor insurance policyholders

while the Automobile Association, the UK's largest motoring organisation, insures about 900,000 motorists.

A further 2.2 million people are policyholders with Direct Line, the largest motor insurer in the country.

Analysts have downgraded their profit expectations for Direct Line amid signs that its growth has slowed and that it was badly hit by the winter weather, especially in Scotland.

Some in the City predict that when the Royal Bank of Scotland, Direct Line's parent company, reports its interim results next month, the motor insurer's profits will only be half of last year's level. Accordingly, they have downgraded full year pre-profits.

Direct Line made £112 million last year and had been expected to make £99 million in the year to September. Some analysts are now predicting profits as low as £40 million.

Some of the companies have indicated that they will not chase market share by reducing premiums.

General Accident, which with 5 per cent of the market ranks as one of Britain's six biggest insurers, has already introduced selected rate rises of 4 per cent.

Mr Richardson believes that the industry is likely to see some consolidation.

He said: "The market is at saturation point—the population is ageing and the birth rate is falling, which means that the number of people wanting car insurance for the first time will soon start to fall. Insurers are having to fight harder to keep their business because more people are chasing it, and the market is driven by price."



Paul Saul, Mulberry's founder, and the stylish wear that typifies his company's output

Mulberry to seek AIM listing

By PAUL DURMAN

MULBERRY, the company whose upmarket leather bags are sold in Harrods and Liberty, will float on the Alternative Investment Market next month in a sale expected to value the business at more than £30 million.

A share placing to raise £8 million to £9 million will allow Mulberry to pay off City backers who hold expensive loan notes issued at the peak of the interest rate cycle four years ago.

Roger Saul, who founded Mulberry 25 years ago, said: "The balance sheet will be greatly enhanced. It will leave us in a position to move forward very, very strongly."

Mr Saul and his family will own about 75 per cent of the group after the flotation. Between 1990 and 1995, Mulberry doubled sales to £25.3 million and almost quadrupled profits to £2 million. Mr Saul said results for the year to March 30 will show continued progress.

About 70 per cent of the company's sales are overseas and it has twice won the Queen's Award for Export. Although best-known for its English Country Look range of handbags and luggage, the company has also expanded into clothing and fabrics.

La Senza, a Canadian-backed lingerie chain, also plans to float on AIM, hoping to raise more than £15 million. Most of La Senza's 22 shops were opened in the last year.

Action will decide if Lloyd's can seize awards

By SARAH BAGNALL

A CRUCIAL High Court action begins tomorrow that will decide whether Lloyd's of London has the right to seize any court awards made to litigating names. Thousands of litigating names have already won hundreds of millions of pounds of damages from High Court actions and more are in the pipeline.

The damages awards are being held in escrow accounts, while the insurance market is trying to end the mass of actions by offering its 34,000 names an out-of-court settlement. This currently stands at £2.8 billion but is expected to be lifted above £3 billion.

Before launching its offer to names last year, Lloyd's had sought approval from the Department of Trade and Industry for planned changes to names' premium trust deeds (PTDs). These changes would give Lloyd's the first call on any court awards or settlements to names where those names have outstanding debts to the market. In March 1995, Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, approved the changes, subject to a legal ruling.

The planned amendments were met with anger by names as many of them have financial obligations outside the market, such as loans taken out in order to pay their Lloyd's losses.

Names want to be able to choose which debts they discharge first and say the changes to the PTDs are unlawful as they make Lloyd's a preferential creditor.

There is a chance, however, that last-minute talks between Lloyd's and representatives of litigating names may lead to a temporary adjournment of the hearing. This is in spite of the fact that the hearing's outcome has significant implications for thousands of names as well as for the insurance market's future survival.

Active recovery likely after Easter hangover

IT WAS a relatively quiet week for the Alternative Investment Market, with the market for smaller and growing companies suffering from a bit of a hangover after the Easter break and the end of the tax year.

Julian Palfreyman, a director at Winterflood Securities, a market-maker in all AIM stocks, said: "It's been very subdued. A lot of people have been away for Easter and the end of the tax year hasn't helped." However, things are set to pick up again this week. Mr Palfreyman expects Cardcast, the credit card fraud company that is due to start trading tomorrow, to get off to a good start and open at a premium. The shares have been placed at 85p, but dealers expect them to open at between 100p and 110p. Active Imaging, the elec-

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

tronic imaging company which is expected to join the AIM next week, is also attracting considerable interest ahead of a placing by Beeson Gregory. The company, which has developed a range of intelligent digital cameras used in surveillance to road traffic management, is seeking to raise about £5 million of new money, capitalising it at about £20 million. The float proceeds will be used to eliminate borrowings and invest in business and market development of the group's intelligent digital camera technology.

A combined stake of 56 per cent held by Active Imaging's manage-

ment and a 24 per cent shareholding held by venture capitalists, including 3i, will be diluted.

Another company looking to join AIM is Reflex, the reflective ink specialist. It plans to join early next month. The group, located in Manchester, is seeking £750,000 by way of an offer for subscription, valuing it at £2.75 million.

Reflex, which was formed in 1993, will use the funds raised from flotation to commercialise and market its novel, one-pack reflective printing inks. The group suffered a pre-tax loss of £158,403 in the year to February 29, due to write-offs of

development spending. However, it projects that it will make an operating profit in the year 1997/98.

Meanwhile, Firecrest hit a bumpy patch last week after the marketing and internet specialist saw Roy Capper, its chief executive, censured by the Stock Exchange for failing to declare an option over 400,000 shares. Firecrest also launched the second phase of its bid to raise £1.5 million of desperately needed extra working capital. It is making an open offer of up to 2.20 million new shares, at 50p each, to raise about £750,000.

Pan Andean Resources, the exploration company whose shares have

risen sharply, has seen volatile trade ahead of an anticipated seismic report for an oilfield in Bolivia. The report should be out soon.

Tracker Network, the maker of a device that tracks stolen cars, reported on Friday that it had halved pre-tax losses to £1.6 million in 1995. The company, whose shares have suffered from some illiquidity in the past, said that sales are going well and hopes to make a profit next year.

The number of companies traded on AIM stands at 139, compared with just ten listed when the market started on June 19. Capitalisation amounts to £2.72 billion, while £242.4 million has been raised since the market began.

PHILIP PANGALOS

HK residents thrill to new stadium's sound of silence

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Stadium, which is managed by Wembley International and was once touted as the prime venue for the world's leading rock acts when touring Asia, looks set to be remembered only as a bungee-jumping centre for the colony was also quashed.

No band has set foot in the HK\$1 billion (£85.5 million) arena since it was opened two years ago, after a long dispute with local residents over noise levels.

With all sides showing no sign of compromise, 1997 and Chinese rule could condemn the stadium to silence in perpetuity.

The people of Hong Kong are beginning to accept there will be no concerts there: it is the inevitable outcome," said a Hong Kong urban council source on Saturday.

Last year, Wembley racked up a surprise surplus of HK\$5 million, largely through unexpected savings on repairs, maintenance and publicity. But experts foresee the picture changing dramatically next year, when large-scale maintenance will be needed for the first time.

Many bizarre tactics have been suggested to get around the noise problem, including

the audience donning gloves, to diminish the noise from clapping and to absorb sound waves. Another idea was to issue all concert-goers with personal headphones. An initiative to use the stadium as a bungee-jumping centre for the colony was also quashed.

"We have a long line of companies wanting to be the first to put a concert on," said Julia Lau, Wembley's public relations manager. "It's just at the moment nobody can do anything about it."

England's football team will play its last warm-up match before the European championships in the stadium on May 26, one of Wembley's few chances to make money from the stadium this year. Rock concerts are the only sure means for the stadium to be a viable proposition for the company.

The stadium, whose sweeping steel-cantilever architecture has won plaudits the world over, was funded by the Royal Jockey Club, which makes its money from the nearby Happy Valley racecourse, as a gift to the people of Hong Kong, and the feverish predilection of the Chinese for betting.

ENGELS-HOLLANDE BELEGGENS TRUST N.V. (English and Dutch Investment Trust)

Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Friday 26 April 1996 at 10.00 hours at the Le Meridien Apollo Hotel, Apollolaan 2, Amsterdam.

Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Staal Bankiers N.V., Lange Houtstraat 8, 2501 CH Den Haag or with Hill Samuel Bank Limited, 48 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4GR. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995 and of the Resolutions to be put before the Meeting will be available at the offices of the above named.

Board of Management
Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.
Rotterdam, 11 April 1996

Offices address:
Max Euwestraat 61
3062 MA Rotterdam

The children are smaller, not the issues

The Times Educational Supplement has now enlarged its focus on Primary and Pre-School Education. Every week: informative, practical articles for the professional. This is in addition to the detailed, expert analysis of our regular pull-out Primary Update. Either way, if it involves children from 0-11, it'll be in the TES, at your newsagent's every Friday.

TES
The Times Educational Supplement
Why buy it?

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
1995-1996	1994-1995	1993-1994	1992-1993	1991-1992	1990-1991	1989-1990	1988-1989	1987-1988	1986-1987
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price	Price
Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E	P/E
134	109	17.40	AMCO Corp	122	...	4.6	13.4	...	...
130	123	2.09	Accor Recruit	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	15	14.40	A de Gruyter	125	...	5.6	10.2	...	...
137	13	5.51	Altamira & Bt	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	17	9.24	Alpha Ovendon	...	...	...	...	...	...
435	300	37.30	Am St Pl	...	...	...	...	...	...
885	685	5.30	Am St Pl	...	...	...	...	...	...
121	80	67.50	Antony	95	...	7	...	...	...
8	8	2.12	Arden Props	...	...	...	...	...	...
75	68	10.90	Art Central	...	...	...	...	...	...
51	38	1.08	Athelney Trust	80	...	7	...	...	...
6	6	4.85	Banc Hodge	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	43	5.75	Balysidra	...	...	...	...	...	...
140	140	1.00	Banque Leu	147	...	2	...	...	...
18	18	1.00	Banc Leu	...	...	...	...	...	...
70	70	10.00	Barclays Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
345	30	40.10	Berkshire	...	...	...	...	...	...
120	116	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	2	...	...	...
110	110	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	...	...	...	...	...	...
120	116	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	...	...	...	...	...	...
78	95	1.20	Cale Inns	147	...	2	...	...	...
2	2	1.84	Capital & Wtd	...	...	...	...	...	...
83	58	16.90	Card Clear	75	...	2	...	...	...
72	62	4.70	Card Clear	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	41	1.79	Cavendish W F	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	18	4.70	Cavendish W F	...	...	...	...	...	...
110	110	27.30	Celtic Pl Shs	...	...	...	...	...	...
6105	6450	16.40	CI Comm(TV)	122	...	2.5	15.7	...	...
124	109	0.99	CI Comm(TV)	...	...	...	...	...	...
110	110	0.99	CI Comm(TV)	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	28	12.70	ClubPartners	...	...	...	...	...	...
510	510	12.20	ClubPartners	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	44	1.50	ClubPartners	...	...	...	...	...	...
85	88	1.50	Country Gals	...	...	...	...	...	...
73	70	2.60	Country Gals	...	...	...	...	...	...
109	102	21.50	Country Gals	...	...	...	...	...	...
62	53	20.80	Country Gals	...	...	...	...	...	...
210	152	13.30	DBS Management	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	34	3.50	DBS Management	...	...	...	...	...	...
1275	850	58.30	Dancom Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	11	3.79	Dancom Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
325	305	31.20	Dancom Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
78	60	12.20	Dancom Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
137	100	15.00	Eastnet	...	...	...	...	...	...
200	115	64.10	Electronics	...	...	...	...	...	...
125	120	5.40	Electronics	...	...	...	...	...	...
245	235	5.77	Est Publs	...	...	...	...	...	...
380	75	10.30	Finetec	...	...	...	...	...	...
188	180	36.70	Finetec	...	...	...	...	...	...
183	180	5.30	Flamenco	...	...	...	...	...	...
220	188	7.74	Floral St	...	...	...	...	...	...
333	253	14.70	Floral St	...	...	...	...	...	...
193	136	17.20	Floral St	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	14	80.70	Floral St	...	...	...	...	...	...
106	93	3.20	Furlong Homes	...	...	...	...	...	...
94	84	24.50	Gander Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	15	5.10	Gander Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
147	145	32.40	Gander Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	23	2.34	Gander Hops	...	...	...	...	...	...
120	120	95.00	Hopco Deal las	...	...	...	...	...	...
80	80	13.30	Hopco Deal las	...	...	...	...	...	...
112	105	10.50	Indpt Radio	...	...	...	...	...	...
88	65	14.70	Inver Holdings	...	...	...	...	...	...
325	303	21.50	Inver Holdings	...	...	...	...	...	...
143	108	30.10	IOC Ltd	...	...	...	...	...	...
103	83	3.79	Jarvis	...	...	...	...	...	...
305	280	35.50	Jarvis	...	...	...	...	...	...
125	103	35.50	Jarvis	...	...	...	...	...	...
164	137	29.80	Lancashire En	...	...	...	...	...	...
245	210	14.80	Lancashire En	...	...	...	...	...	...
230	220	49.30	Lancashire En	...	...	...	...	...	...
285	256	45.60	Le Riches Shs	...	...	...	...	...	...
95	85	31.50	Le Riches Shs	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	34	13.10	Lester Corp	...	...	...	...	...	...
200	200	13.10	Lester Corp	...	...	...	...	...	...

07/11/2015

Tobacco groups ride out legal threat by expanding

Richard Thomson finds the makers of cigarettes in surprisingly good health

Beset by lawsuits, besieged by anti-smoking campaigners, attacked by legislators, the US tobacco industry has never had so many problems to contend with. But anyone who was tempted to think that the industry was sinking under the burden may be surprised to learn that its core business has never been better.

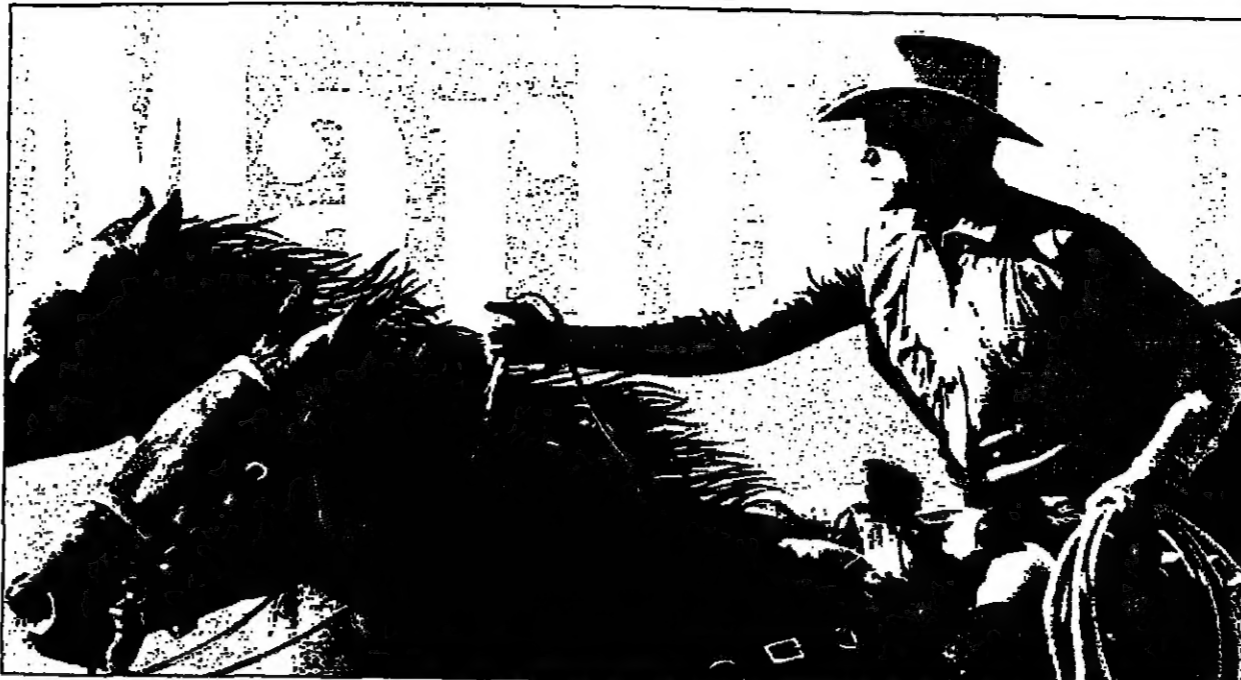
When the leading US tobacco companies report their first-quarter earnings this week, it will become clear just how healthy they really are. Sales have risen strongly, profit margins are sound and prospects look bright.

Also coming over the next

few days will be results from American Brands, Brooke Group, UST Inc and, in the first week of May, Lorillard Corp. All of them will show handsome profit growth. The first-quarter results, moreover, are likely to set the tone for the rest of 1996.

"They'll all do very well this time around. They'll all raise their dividends, and the shares of all of them should rise in the foreseeable future," said John Maxwell, tobacco analyst at Wheat First Butcher Singer, the brokers. There is good reason for all this optimism.

In spite of the adverse publicity of lawsuits and whistleblowers, sales of cigarettes in the US keep improving. Mindful that this state of affairs may not last forever, they have been expanding overseas at a rapid rate. Some 50 per cent of Philip Morris's revenue is from abroad and these businesses are growing at nearly 20 per cent a year. Only about a third of RJR's revenue is from overseas, but that too is growing fast. Most sales by Brown & William-



Philip Morris, which owns the Marlboro brand, is one of several tobacco groups in an industry that faces 155 lawsuits

son, the third-largest US tobacco company, which is owned by BAT Industries, are in the Far East and Latin America.

"Consumers love American-style cigarettes," said David Adelman, tobacco analyst at Dean Witter. This is

important because the US accounts for a mere 12 per cent of the total world consumption of five thousand billion cigarettes a year. US groups are grabbing a bigger share of the world market, mainly in Eastern Europe, the Far East and South America.

a move which should generate vast profits for them in the future. And they have hardly even tapped the biggest single market of all, China, which smokes a thousand billion cigarettes a year. But, while trading is going well, there is a public rela-

tions disaster developing in the US. However much tobacco executives try to make light of the 155 lawsuits pending against the industry, they undoubtedly face a big problem. "Until recently, the lawsuits were just from activists trying to get publicity,"

said Mr Adelman. "Now, for the first time, the companies are being sued by people and institutions that really want to make money out of them."

New Jersey last week joined 14 other US states suing the industry for billions of dollars, which they claim are the costs of providing medical care to people made sick by smoking. The so-called Castano class action on behalf of everyone in the US injured by smoking is still pending. And a growing band of whistleblowers — mostly former industry executives and researchers — are coming forward accusing the industry of lying over how much it knew about the addictiveness of nicotine.

"Historically, juries do not award damages to smokers, so the industry should win all these cases," said Mr Adelman. But the tobacco industry is now engaged in a deadly serious public relations war that it seems to be losing. The recent decision by Liggett, owned by Brooke Group, to settle lawsuits against it out of court has blown apart the industry's traditional solidarity in fighting all-comers. It also created a precedent tobacco companies can after all be made

to pay out money. This opened the floodgates to the tide of new lawsuits.

Given the slow pace of the US courts, the outcome will not be clear for some time. The immediate effect of the Liggett action, however, was to hammer the value of tobacco shares. Philip Morris is down 16 per cent from \$104 to \$88. RJR down from \$35 to \$30. BAT's US-traded ADRs down from \$18 to \$15. Investors are frightened. Some of the huge public employee investment funds, such as those in California, say tobacco shares are no longer a safe investment. On a historical basis, they are now cheap.

But will they ever rise again? If they follow past patterns, the answer is yes. They normally fall sharply on bad news but outperform over the longer term. Thanks to hefty profits, there will be handsome dividend increases announced during the summer, which should help to restore faith in the shares. If they do not, it will be an ominous sign to the industry that its world has undergone a fundamental change: that however good its trading performance, investors would prefer not to touch it with a bargepole.

Assault ships delayed as MoD haggles over price

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

AN ORDER for two new assault ships to equip Britain's soon-to-be-launched rapid reaction force is being held up by the Ministry of Defence battles with GEC Marine, its monopoly supplier, over price.

With two years' work already in its order book, GEC Marine, Britain's biggest defence contractor, part of the General Electric Company, is using all its leverage to maximise payments for the ships, costing more than £100 million each.

The MoD is seeking a tender on the basis of no acceptable price, no contract. But the ships, which carry landing craft, helicopters and

up to 800 Marines each to launch sea-borne assaults, are urgently needed if Britain's ability to project military power overseas is to be restored.

According to the Parliamentary defence select committee, Britain is now incapable of launching a Falklands-style invasion. HMS Fearless, the 31-year old assault ship, is completing a much-delayed refit, but MoD sources say HMS Intrepid, its 29-year old sister vessel, is so badly corroded that it is unlikely ever to return to sea.

A spokesman for VSEL, the Barrow-in-Furness shipbuilder now owned by GEC, said

the yard was determined to win the assault-ship work. "Negotiations are still going on," he said. The contracts were expected to be placed last year. But MoD sources suggest the aim now is to secure a deal before the summer parliamentary recess.

Swan Hunter, VSEL's only remaining rival in the construction of large warships, went into administration in 1994 after VSEL offered to buy it for £139 million. Swan Hunter priced the same 20,500 tonne ship at £21 million.

VSEL cut the cost dramatically by sub-contracting con-

struction and basic fitting out of the 600 ft hull to Kvaerner Govan, a civil yard on Clyde-side, for £80 million. The National Audit Office subsequently estimated that VSEL had provided £25 million to £30 million of support to its bid, though company sources are reported to have put the figure closer to £10 million.

GEC Marine subsequently bought VSEL after a bid battle with British Aerospace, and created GEC Marine to oversee management of both Barrow and its existing Yarrow frigate yard on the Clyde.

Yarrow has since undercut Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton. Britain's only other frigate builder, to secure its future with an MoD order for three Type-23 frigates.

But Barrow still has almost two years' work left for its 5,000 employees. HMS Vanguard, Britain's fourth Trident submarine, will not be completed until the end of 1997. The helicopter ship arrives from Govan this summer. Fitting defensive missiles, combat systems, helicopter handling equipment and other military hardware will take 18 months. In addition, the yard has secured its first civil contracts for 25 years, to build two 4,500 tonne oil tankers for James Fisher and Sons, of Barrow. VSEL can also bid for the £3 billion contract to build up to five batch two Trafalgar class nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines.

CBI finds pay rises steady at 3.6%

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

PAY awards in Britain show no sign of accelerating, according to new figures from the Confederation of British Industry's Pay Databank published today.

Manufacturing pay awards averaged 3.6 per cent in the first quarter, provisional figures show, 3.6 per cent in the three months ended in February and 3.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. Manufacturers also reported annual productivity gains, which averaged 4.3 per cent in the first quarter, against 3.4 per cent in the previous quarter.

Since the beginning of August, the Pay Databank shows that one in eight manufacturing settlements were at or below 2.5 per cent and two in five were between 2.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent. One deal in three was between 3.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent and only one in seven was above 4.5 per cent.

Pay awards in service sector firms averaged 3.6 per cent, according to provisional figures, in the first quarter, compared with 3.8 per cent in the three months ended in February and 3.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year.

Protest looms as Savoy chief's salary leaps 60%

By Jon Ashworth

DIRECTORS of the Savoy Group are braced for a storm of protest over pay when shareholders gather for the annual meeting on May 20.

It has emerged that Ramon Pajares, managing director, was paid £308,745 last year — well up on his predecessor, Giles Shepard, and that the company is seeking to amend its articles of association in the hope of tripling the amount payable in directors' fees.

Details are laid bare in the 1995 annual report, which touches on the fortunes of Savoy Group gems, including Claridge's, The Berkeley, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, and the Savoy itself.

Mr Pajares, whose attempts at modernisation have angered Savoy traditionalists, is in line for a one-off bonus of £150,000 if certain profit targets are achieved. Last year, he received a salary of £181,231 plus a bonus of £84,196.

Other emoluments and pension contributions lifted his package to £308,745. Mr Shepard, who resigned in September 1994, and is now managing director of the Ritz, received £187,316 in salary and other emoluments in 1994. However, a golden handshake worth £569,000 took his total 1994 package to £756,641.

Mr Pajares is entitled to a bonus of between 30 per cent and 50 per cent if profit targets are hit. He will receive a one-off bonus of £150,000 if pre-tax profits exceed an amount, to be fixed, between £18 million and £20 million. The Savoy made £11.5 million (£4.4 mil-



Giles Shepard resigned from the Savoy in September 1994

lion) last year. The report further discloses that Mr Pajares is on a three-year rolling contract, reducing to two years after November 1997, and to one year from November 1998.

Rowland Leigh, former company secretary, was paid £198,000 in compensation for loss of office after his depar-

ture in January 1995. The Savoy board is seeking to amend its articles of association to increase the maximum "pool" available in directors' fees from £50,000 to £150,000. It says the current cap "restricts the company's ability to remunerate directors in accordance with their contribution and market rates".

IOPC counts cost of oil spill

By Marianne Curphey

MORE than 100 delegates will meet in London tomorrow to assess the total cost of cleaning up the Welsh coast after the Sea Empress oil tanker ran aground at Milford Haven two months ago.

The meeting, called by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), will also look at the controversial issue of interim hardship payments to Welsh fishermen unable to fish in local waters since the disaster.

Fishermen, the tourist industry and wildlife groups have three years to lodge

claims for damage and loss of income. Skuld, the Sea Empress's Norwegian liability insurer, has so far paid out £215,000 in hardship payments to 62 people employed in the areas worst hit by the spillage.

The IOPC's executive committee will also examine Skuld's claims management process.

Insurers say they will need another ten days to examine the Sea Empress in dry dock before deciding whether she is repairable. The ship is held at the Harland & Wolff shipyard

in Belfast and is being cleaned before the damage is assessed. A number of companies have put in tenders for repair, but Harland & Wolff is likely to win the contract if repairs proceed.

Meanwhile, up to 75 fishermen waiting for compensation after the Braer tanker disaster in Shetland in 1993 may drop their claims against the IOPC. Unlike the Milford Haven fishermen, many of whom have hired loss adjusters on a no-win no-fee basis, the Shetland claimants are finding the cost too great.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Seventieth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 23rd April 1996, at 4.00 pm.

By Order of the Directors
J. C. Mitchell, Secretary
6th March 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Royal Agricultural Society of England will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, on Tuesday 14th May 1996 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

- To receive the audited Accounts for the year ended 30th September 1995 and the Report of the Council.
- To elect a President, a Chairman of the Council, Trustees and Vice-Presidents to hold office for the year next ensuing (October 1996 to September 1997).
- To take any other business that may come before the meeting.

5. To authorise the Council to act on behalf of the Society in all matters relating to the Society's affairs.

6. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Secretary: National Agricultural Centre, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV82 9NF.

CHARITY COMMISSION Notice of the Charity Commission for the registration of the Charity of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, No. 260631/9/9953-CDL000. The Commission proposes to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Albans House, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV82 9NF, enclosing the sum of £10.00. The Scheme will be made available for inspection at the Charity Commission, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL, and at the Charity Commission for England and Wales, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL, from 15th April 1996 to 15th May 1996. Any objections to the Scheme should be made in writing to the Charity Commission, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL, by 15th May 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 and of the COMPANIES ACT 1985. NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 10.00 hours on 19th April 1996 at 11.00 hrs for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed arrangement for the reconstruction of the company. The proposed arrangement is that the company should be wound up and its assets sold to a new company to be formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of the company. The proposed arrangement is subject to the approval of the creditors at the meeting. The meeting will be held at the offices of the Liquidator, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Appointment of Sole Liquidator and Notice to Creditors to Claim or Prove. In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986 and of the Companies Act 1985. Notice is hereby given that I, the undersigned, have been appointed Sole Liquidator of the above-named company. Creditors are required to submit claims to me in writing, together with supporting evidence, by 15th May 1996. The meeting of the creditors will be held at 10.00 hours on 19th April 1996 at 11.00 hrs for the purpose of considering and voting on the proposed arrangement for the reconstruction of the company. The proposed arrangement is that the company should be wound up and its assets sold to a new company to be formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of the company. The proposed arrangement is subject to the approval of the creditors at the meeting. The meeting will be held at the offices of the Liquidator, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

P&O leads race for Geelong port

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

P&O has emerged as a leading bidder for Australia's Port of Geelong in what would mark the company's first acquisition of a port.

The Port of Geelong, which is expected to carry a price of up to \$100 million (£52.3 million) is a bulk and special cargo port which receives 400 ships a year carrying petroleum products, grain, bauxite and fertilisers.

Richard Hein, the managing director of P&O's Australian arm, said: "It will be a whole new area of investment for us. We believe that we could run it extremely professionally and as well as anyone else. It is a good infrastructure investment." In the year to June 30 last year, the Port of Geelong, near Melbourne, made a net profit of \$99 million, against \$7.8 million. P&O, under the chairman-

ship of Lord Sterling of Plaistow, has made no secret of its desire to expand its maritime operations in Australia and already operates container terminals in Sydney, Melbourne, and Fremantle as well as stevedoring activities in a further 40 ports around Australia. The group also manages a number of container terminals in other areas of the world including Russia, China and Argentina from its base in Australia. Up to now, however, P&O has never owned a port outright, concentrating instead on managing operations within state-owned ports.

The proposed acquisition of the Port of Geelong marks P&O's first attempt at expanding its operations in Australia since its ill-fated bid last year for ANL, the country's government-owned national shipping line. P&O was eventually forced to abandon its bid after months of negotiations when Australia's powerful maritime unions threatened to call a national waterfront strike if the sale went ahead without their consent, claiming that P&O had a poor industrial relations record in the UK.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar 1.5112 (-0.0188)
German mark 2.2731 (+0.0109)
Exchange index 83.6 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2804.4 (+7.7)
FT-SE 100 3766.8 (+11.2)
New York Dow Jones 5532.59 (-150.29)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 21680.47 (+189.31)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.01	1.85
Austria Sch	16.98	15.48
Belgium Fr	48.64	45.34
Canada \$	2.156	1.986
Cyprus Cyp	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.38	8.58
Finland Mk	7.66	7.01
France Fr	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.42	2.22
Greece Dr	386.00	381.00
Hong Kong \$	12.33	11.33
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.1600	4.5100
Italy Lira	2480.00	2325.00
Japan Yen	178.40	182.40
Malta	0.591	0.536
Netherlands Gld	2.690	2.480
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.41	9.51
Portugal Esc	244.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.73	5.93
Spain Pta	167.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.74	9.94
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	114257.2	106257.2
USA \$	1.608	1.478

Rates for travel agents' commission banks only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

BANCO DO BRASIL

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE CHANGE OF OPENING HOURS

Banco do Brasil S.A. wishes to inform clients and correspondent banks in the United Kingdom that, with effect from 3rd June 1996, the counters of the London branch will be open to the public on London business days between the hours of 12pm and 4pm daily. Access to the Bank for purposes other than retail transactions will remain unchanged.

Britain in 1996 has a new version of a run on the savings bank. Building societies are having to close their doors early to depositors, or resort to the equivalent of taking money in siphons, to stem the flood of speculative money coming in. It is redolent of a *fin de siècle* atmosphere that has little to do with the date. Rather, it illuminates the fag-end of a vital economic revolution that lost its way and let Mammonites instal themselves as the nation's new semi-official priesthood.

In this looking-glass world, taxpayers have to pay more subsidies to the private sector and financial service businesses reach new peaks of confidence because they are planning to sack employees faster. Free competition requires more bureaucratic controls, permanently. Gas supply is thrown into confusion that undermines service and multiplies dissatisfaction, all in the name of consumers; and Britain's second force telecoms business is ready to be flogged to the highest foreign bidder because common sense, along with any vision of the country's long-term interest, has been dissolved in a trade of theologically pure regulatory evangelism.

This phase may prove temporary but its effects will be with us for many years ahead. The decline of the mutual sector is typical. For the insurers and building societies concerned, it may well be a healthy development in an era when perma-

Mammon's stakeholders massacre the mutuals



GRAHAM SEAFORD

nence and certainty are in drought, unpredictable change is rampant and financial flexibility therefore paramount. But who knows? The urge to convert stems from competitive market forces, but the sudden stampede owes more to the ambitions of managers, oiled by savers' sensible desire to bag cash windfalls while they can.

Building societies prospered originally because, as low-cost, non-profit bodies, they could offer better terms to savers and to ordinary people who wanted to buy a house. Savers were generally loyal because they or their children wanted to become borrowers. But most of the big building societies have been run increasingly like joint stock banks for years, ever since easy money broke the link between saving and borrowing and opened up competition. As big societies maximised profits for growth, they ceased to be much feeling that members were, how can one put it, stakeholders.

Mutuality is a state of mind. If managers operate like bankers and treat members as no more than customers, there is not much point in having an old-fashioned financial structure that feather-beds the

board. For members, under 1990s Mammonite culture, ownership is about control and a fast buck. Mutual life assurance companies, faced with comparable pressures, may find the same applies to them. The stampede that is expected to catch up with Bristol & West today needed two factors to come together. The slump in the housing market left all those new branches stranded, and societies, with more money than they could prudently lend, chasing low-risk borrowers and spending heavily to diversify. Mergers accelerated. Then voting members discovered that they could benefit from agreeing to these mergers under the

recent law allowing societies to convert to plc status. As soon as Lloyds Bank bid cash for Cheltenham & Gloucester, the traditional building society merger was dead.

There is, however, a catch. If societies are trying to escape from the shrunken housing market, why are banks so keen to expand into it? One theory is that bank herds are genetically programmed to thunder heading from one lending disaster to the next. A recent survey of bankers by the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation found that the hot favourite for the next disaster was that competition and overcapacity would lead them to take silly lending risks again.

Even after 1990s repossessions and negative equity, banks still see mortgages as a much safer zone for expansion than, say, big corporate lending. Third World debt or small business. In the past week, however, competition has toughened as mutuals hit back. The Nationwide and the Yorkshire, rediscovering their old roots, cut lending rates by cutting profit margins. They can do this, they argue, because they do not have to pay dividends on their capital. The banks and neo-banks could

respond in kind, relying on claimed lower borrowing costs. They could take hidden risks by lending more on less security to higher-risk borrowers. Or they could forsake market share and put the surplus cash in government bonds. But it takes a brave bank boss to do that.

The Nationwide's return to old ways could revive the sector's worth or prove to be just a short-term tactic to capture business in thin times. As the flood of cash into smaller societies shows, the pressure to convert is becoming irresistible. Some should resist, setting deposit rates for new members so that they can make a turn in the money markets. Mutual insurance companies can overcome their selling problems by cutting costs and growing more slowly, thereby usually giving savers a better deal.

The Co-operative Bank is making use of its peculiar status to offer a different service to customers who want a bank with "ethical" lending policies. Some smaller societies already provide a niche service that the plc sector shuns. Others will need to get closer to their customers.

If the welfare state is to develop the way some thinkers on both left and right project, people are likely to need non-state organisations to offer contracts for pensions and mutual insurance against insecurity that are unlikely to satisfy a conventional plc's risk/reward calculus. It would be ironic, but not surprising, if, by then, the best-placed sector has just been wiped out.

Following in father's footsteps

Sarah Cunningham on sons, and sometimes, daughters taking over top posts from their fathers

Any tycoon's son or daughter considering entering the family firm could be forgiven for thinking twice. Who would wish themselves into the shoes of Sir Rocco Forte or Peter Baring, watching the family business slip between their fingers?

The potential for public humiliation is huge, yet any success or promotion of the younger generation is dismissed, resentfully, as the result of nepotism.

But research suggests that family companies often enjoy above average success. A study by the Stoy Centre for Family Business in London showed that in the 21 years from 1970 to 1991, the shares of listed family companies outperformed the FT all-share index by nearly 30 per cent.

Barbara Dunn, director of Glasgow Caledonian University's Centre for Family Enterprise, says that investors' suspicion of family firms is based on prejudice. "I have interviewed accountants and stockbrokers and they start off with the assumption that most family firms are tuppenny, ha'penny affairs. But in many cases, people running companies see themselves as custodians of the family wealth."

The centre runs pro-

grammes designed to help families cope with the stresses of running a business. Such programmes are rare in Britain but common in America and increasingly popular in Italy, where handing a company down the family—even one the size of Fiat—is considered the norm.

Those running the programmes say that experience shows that big, publicly quoted family companies face many of the same problems as small ones. "People are used to classifying firms by size and sector. But if it is owned or run by a family, it makes all the difference," Ms Dunn says.

In spite of the well publicised family firm disasters, many company heads continue to push their sons, and occasionally daughters, forward. Cameron O'Reilly, the 31-year-old son of Tony O'Reilly, head of Independent Newspapers, last month became chief executive of Australian Provincial Newspapers, Australia's largest regional newspaper publisher. Kerry Packer has handed control of his £1.5 billion publishing and broadcasting empire to his son, James, 28. Packer Senior inherited the company from his father and is expected to keep a close eye on the business.

Peter Leach, of the Stoy Centre, says the danger period



In the frame: Sir Rocco Forte, son of Lord Forte, found himself on the receiving end of a bid by Granada

for a company comes when it is handed down to the third generation. "By the third generation, you often have a diversity of shareholders and their interests and the interest of the family in charge do not coincide." The family, in these cases, often finds itself outvoted and waving goodbye to the company bearing its name.

Professor Peter Storey of Warwick University's Business School, says there are two types of succession. The first is what he calls the Baxters model. Scotland's Baxters has been making soup and jams since 1868, has been smoothly handed down from generation to generation, and is still family run: the perfect family company success story.

The second is what Professor Storey calls the "red Porsche model". In these cases, he says: "There is a 25-year-old younger son who takes over and irritates all the managers who are in their forties or fifties and can see he doesn't understand the firm. He takes the job because he enjoys having a red Porsche."

According to Mr Leach, success is most likely if a family has a strong cultural, religious or ethnic identity that encourages it to stick together. Good examples of this are Quaker Rowntree and Cadbury family firms. The other crucial factor is ensuring there are good non-family executives in the company. Cesare Romiti, who last

month became chairman of Fiat when Giovanni Agnelli stepped down, was an excellent and loyal managing director. He is now seen as keeping the seat warm for Signor Agnelli's 31-year-old nephew.

Depending on how you calculate it, up to 75 per cent of British firms are family-run and certain family names will forever be associated with a type of business. Sainsbury, for example, is synonymous with supermarkets and the family has kept a tight control on the company since it was founded in 1869. All the chairmen have been members of the Sainsbury family. But now there is no obvious family candidate to take over when David Sainsbury retires.

In the long run, Sainsbury's could go the way of Guinness. A prominent Irish dynasty, it now has little to do with the brewing business that made it famous. Likewise, Baring's is a name that will always be associated with banking, but—thanks to Nick Leeson—Peter Baring will almost certainly be the last of the family to be the bank's chairman.

Mars is still owned by America's Mars family and run by the grandchildren of the founder, John and Forrest (Junior) Mars and their sister, Jacqueline, manage the business founded by Frank Mars in the mid-1920s and built up by his son, Forrest. As it is privately owned and secretive, it is impossible to judge how

well Mars is doing or guess its plans for when the current owner-managers want to retire.

In British industry, there is another succession that is now expected not to happen. The Hanson conglomerate plans to break itself up. It now looks as though Lord Hanson's son, Robert, will never take the top job from his father.

In spite of all his advantages and whatever his abilities, the dice are loaded against him.

One City follower said that from the investors' point of view, while having sons or daughters come into the company can be a good thing, putting them in charge is problematic.

"They are usually very nice, very well educated; after all they have never had to struggle. But that doesn't mean they have their father's abilities and it is always difficult to argue that an outside candidate wouldn't do a better job."

Double treat at the opera

Cavalleria Rusticana and I Pagliacci, Radio 3, 7.10pm. Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.

You and I have a difficult and delicious choice to make tonight. Both Radio 3 and Classic FM will celebrate Welsh National Opera's 50th anniversary. Radio 3's relay of "Cav" and "Pag" from Cardiff, is live. anniversary. Radio 3's relay of "Cav" and "Pag" from Cardiff, is live. anniversary. Radio 3's relay of "Cav" and "Pag" from Cardiff, is live.

The Monday Play: A Yearning, Radio 4, 7.45pm. Lorca set his tragedy Yerma in Spain, his homeland. Ruth Carter's adaptation is set in Birmingham, and the characters are Asians. The geographical location is not of paramount importance. The theme of geographical location is not of paramount importance. The theme of geographical location is not of paramount importance.

RADIO 1
6.30am Stereo, 4.00am Celine Dion 6.30am Chris Evans, and Newsbeat 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier 7.00pm Evening Session. Grand Day in session 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00pm Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2
6.30am Stereo, 4.00am Alex Lester 6.30am Sarah Kennedy 6.15pm Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15pm Pause for Thought 8.30pm Kim Bruce 11.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Melodisc Laycock with Darius Band Days, and at 8.30pm Big Band Special 8.00pm Humphrey Lytton 10.00pm Radio Days 10.30pm The Jamisons 12.00pm Steve Mason, and 1.30pm Pause for Thought at 3.00pm Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE
5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme 6.55pm 7.55pm racing preview 8.25pm The Morning News, incl 10.25pm News from Europe, 12.00pm Midday with Matt, incl 12.34pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15pm Entertainment News, 2.05pm Ruzovic on Five, incl at 3.05pm Accuracy 3.45pm Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverleith 5.00pm News Extra 7.25pm Wimbledon FA Cup 1976—television Arsenal 8.30pm The Monday Tenthour, incl 10.25pm News from Europe, 12.00pm Midday with Matt, incl 12.34pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15pm Entertainment News, 2.05pm Ruzovic on Five, incl at 3.05pm Accuracy 3.45pm Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverleith 5.00pm News Extra 7.25pm Wimbledon FA Cup 1976—television Arsenal 8.30pm The Monday Tenthour, incl 10.25pm News from Europe, 12.00pm Midday with Matt, incl 12.34pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15pm Entertainment News, 2.05pm Ruzovic on Five, incl at 3.05pm Accuracy 3.45pm Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverleith 5.00pm News Extra 7.25pm Wimbledon FA 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Dial 999 for gore, guilt and tautology

Fear and pity are supposedly the ingredients of great drama, which is why 999 (BBC1, Fridays) is almost terrific television. I say "almost" because unfortunately 999 gives us fear and pity, but also a big unappetising dollop of condescension. "My life-saving capabilities are a disgrace," a worthless person laments. "I am a viewer of 999 afterwards," I sometimes get a roll of bandage out of the first aid box, and look intently at the sleeping car, and think miserably, "Shall I Dare? No."

Now, clearly 999's interest in improving the nation's first aid is admirable, but it also feels uncomfortably like grace before grub in a borscht: it is the pious lecture you must suffer as prelude to the gory reconstructions. For, despite the repeated necessity of viewing the screen through knitted fingers, there is little to compare with the exquisite prurient thrill of watching blokes inadvertently sawing into their own legs, or reckless adolescents getting stuck down a lead mine. Few of the stories on Friday involved the practical application of first-aid knowledge, incidentally, instead they involved resourceful people dialling 999. So a mixed message is sent to the public here. Personally (this is true), I once phoned the life guard when I saw a distress flare over the Channel. I felt proud. But it turned out rather weirdly: "Yes, we know about the flares," said the life guard, kindly. "They are filming a reconstruction for 999."

Satire leaves no mark on a programme like 999. When BBC2's *The Day Today* memorably spoofed the genre (an item about a sheep dog in control of a light aircraft, and a resourceful shepherd whistling instructions from the control tower), it was unlikely 999 would disappear in a puff of embarrassment, even if such an outcome would have been nice. But it is extraordinary that, after so much ridicule, no self-examination prevents Michael Barker adhering to such tautological phrases as "a sudden and unexpected accident" as though proud to roll them out.

Anyone expecting routine reconstruction of the Battle of Culloden last night on BBC2 will have been amazed by what they saw. I know I was. The newly made *Rebellion* was shown with the 1994 *Culloden*, and together they made an absorbing, intelligent two hours, shedding light not only on the historical episode itself, but on changing methods of history, and on changing methods of presenting it.

While *Rebellion* used talking-head historians (whose views conflicted), and told the whole story of the Jacobite cause, *Culloden* focused on the battle and, through commentary and mock interviews with the officers and men (bedraggled in rain, with pustules and blackened teeth any make-up person would wince at today), presenting a humanizing in all its confusion and cruelty. "This is grapeshot," said the narrator coolly. "This is what it does." Peter Watkins went on to make *The War*

Game. His *Culloden* is a masterpiece: let's hope it's not 250 years before it's shown again.

Did the makers of *Rebellion* know *Culloden* was to be re-shown? It would certainly explain why they chose a rather different (and very loaded) reconstruction technique, in which unarmed Highlanders ran like hapless savages towards, not cannon or bayonets, but tanks. Yes, tanks. Well blow me down, if you will pardon the expression. Were all the red coats just hired out by Hollywood, or was this (more likely) a political point? At *Culloden*, many of the rebels were simply blown to bits by artillery, so it must have seemed a clever idea to show the superiority of the English "military machine" in this startling form, using stock footage of helicopters and armoured cars. Personally, however, I couldn't quite stomach it: the real difference between the armies were

exaggerated enough, surely, without making the battle look like space technology versus cave dweller.

Gaby Roslin's new chat show on Saturday (Channel 4) weekly coincided with a lacklustre phase of the US Masters on BBC2, otherwise I can't promise I'd have stayed tuned. But Greg Norman was relentlessly maintaining his lead, the CBS pictures were witty, the scoreboard was shown twice a minute, and Nick Faldo was miserably chewing the lip — so by comparison *The Gaby Roslin Show* certainly had an appeal.

Will this lively woman revive the chat show? Will she overturn recent preference for anti-chat, for clever interviewers outwitting dull guests in the cause of entertainment? We shall see. Most people seemed nervous on this first show, and the Kate Winslet interview (brilliant actress but gushy inter-

viewer, calling everybody in show business "fabulous" and "supportive") reminded us of all the trite Clive Anderson punctures for our sakes. If Gaby Roslin is to show us a few of the greats (she slavered over her guests), perhaps the studio audience should not be led to expect Don't Forget Your Toothbrush. At the end of the show, Gaby promised: "Next week... Tony Bennett" — and elicited no "oooh's whatsoever from an audience that had presumably never heard of him.

Elsewhere — damn, no room, no room — last night's *Triumph of the Nerds* (Channel 4) was a witty account of the early days of the personal computer, essential viewing for the next two weeks. But the really big news was the godsmacking demise of girlfriend Alex in *Hamish Macbeth* (BBC1) — a series which, like 999, is never afraid of accidents that are both sudden and unexpected.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

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CHOICE

BRANWELL

7.00pm

The Victorian medical drama returns for a second series, having hooked a satisfying million-plus audience for its first. The well-liked father-and-daughter doctors (David Calder and Emma Redgrave) are still running their hospital for the deserving poor in the London East End. Meanwhile Redgrave's Eleanor continues to fight for professional recognition as the time when women in medicine are still a rarity. She is a heroine again when she carries out an impromptu leg amputation after a train crash in the Underground. That the patient (Tom Georgeson) subsequently turns as nasty as his wound adds a macabre twist to an otherwise authentically researched script by the show's creator, Lucy Gannon. The realism extends to the operations. The squamous are hereby warned.

RESCUE: SMOKE EATERS

Channel 4, 9.00pm

What with *Blue and Twos* and *999*, not to mention fictional counterparts, the emergency services are hardly starved of television exposure. The rationale of this series, apart from paying tribute to the courage and heroism of the professionals, is to show how big disasters have been the spur to improving organisation and equipment. *Smoke Eaters* looks at two big London fires more than 30 years apart. In 1958 Smithfield meat market was set ablaze after fire broke out in storage cellars. Two firemen died and the incident compelled a radical overhaul of procedures. The King's Cross Underground fire of 1989 threw up more heroism and revealed more shortcomings. Both incidents are recalled through archive film and the fire fighters involved.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: UNPLANNED ERECTIONS

Channel 4, 9.30pm

A new series from John Plummer, remembered for his quirky contributions to BBC2's *40 Minutes*, deals with those whose job is to enforce rules. A seemingly unpromising topic reveals unexpected humour. Tonight we take to the road with the planning enforcement officers of the London Borough of Richmond. Headed by a burly extrovert called Alan Halpern, the team is known to colleagues as the SAS. Its prime target is an unsightly roof extension built without planning permission. The owner claims he no longer lives in the house. A nighttime stake-out proves otherwise. The "SAS" is also called by by-allowment holders, headed by a redoubtable actress, Edna Doré, who are in dispute with a builder over a promised delivery of topsoil.

OMNIBUS: SPIKE

BBC1, 10.10pm (Scotland: Thursday, midnight)

A portrait of Spike Milligan reveals a sad clown but, as he approaches his 78th birthday, one whose sense of the absurd is as strong as ever. The manic side of this talented, sensitive man is at least as evident as the depressive. But he is still deeply affected by the break-up of his first marriage, for which he publicly takes the blame. "How do you wipe out your mistakes?" he asks his unseen interviewer. And there was the dreadful time when he had to tell his young children that their mother (his second wife) was dying of cancer. Even *The Goon Show* was a bitter-sweet success since the strain of writing 26 scripts a year for eight years came close to destroying him. Although younger comedy practitioners from John Cleese to Vic Reeves are happy to acknowledge their debt to him, Spike Milligan clearly feels underappreciated. But laughter, thank goodness, keeps breaking in.

Report (50222) 11.00 Weighing-in (47788) 12.00 Sunday (70000) 1.00pm News (15641) 2.00 Younger Car (51757) 4.00 Olympic Games (25522) 5.00 Live Man (28118) 7.30 The Saturday Night Takeaway (50222) 8.00 The Evening News (50222) 9.00 Football (50222) 10.00 Football (50222) 11.00 Eurosport (50222) 12.00-12.30am M4 Sports (4974)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 11.00 Bobo's (100331) 12.00-1.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 1.00-2.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 2.00-3.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 3.00-4.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 4.00-5.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 5.00-6.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 6.00-7.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 7.00-8.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 8.00-9.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 9.00-10.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 10.00-11.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 11.00-12.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 12.00-1.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 1.00-2.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 2.00-3.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 3.00-4.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 4.00-5.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 5.00-6.00am Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (100331) 6.00-7.00am Dennis 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UK firms join £8bn rush to rebuild Bosnia

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BRITISH companies are hoping to be awarded their first contracts for the reconstruction of Bosnia within a month. Up to £8 billion will be spent on rebuilding war-ravaged Bosnia over the next four years. War damage has been estimated at \$50 billion.

Defence Systems, a London-based private security company, is understood to be close to signing a contract to clear mines from the former war zone, a key step to allowing reconstruction to begin.

Amec, the engineering and construction group, is hoping to sign utilities repair contracts within weeks. Prospects

for British companies brightened after \$1.23 billion of new aid for rebuilding Bosnia was pledged by representatives of 30 countries and 30 international agencies meeting in Brussels at the weekend.

David Robson, chairman of Amec's manufacturing and services division, said his company already had people in Bosnia working on securing contracts for repairing gas, water and electricity supplies as well as rebuilding roads.

"We expect the first contracts in a matter of time — within the next month," he said. Amec will use local Bosnian manpower. Other construction companies, in-

cluding Balfour Beatty, have sent scouting parties to Bosnia, while a consultancy, Howard Humphreys & Partners, the British subsidiary of Brown & Root of the US, has moved some staff to Sarajevo.

The Department of Trade and Industry says that it has received inquiries from 200 companies about work in the former Yugoslavia.

Competition to win contracts has been hotting up since the start of the year. Many American and continental European companies have been chasing business with the energetic backing of their governments.

Amec sees itself in a particularly strong position because, since July 1994, it has had workers sponsored by the Overseas Development Agency assisting Sarajevo Gas to replace thousands of illegal connections. Northern Ireland Electricity also helped to ensure some continuation of power supplies in Sarajevo during hostilities.

The World Bank and European Union are now working together to identify key projects, although a Bosnian-Serb boycott of the weekend conference will hamper reconstruction in that part of the former Yugoslavia. The Bank and the EU will provide the names of possible contractors to Bosnian authorities who will award contracts.

The World Bank has so far identified 12 emergency projects and has granted credits to allow work to begin. It says that up to \$5.1 billion will be needed to get the state back into reasonable shape. Pledges of \$600 million for emergency work were made last December, although not all the money has been delivered.

The DTI is to hold a conference in London on April 29 on opportunities arising from reconstruction in Bosnia. It hopes Bosnian politicians will attend. DTI officials have been working to overcome concern that Britain was falling behind in the race for contracts when they start to flow. Many businessmen complained that they were not given adequate help to secure work for the rebuilding of Kuwait after the Gulf War, when American firms took many of the plum deals.

This time round, British officials have been quicker off the mark. "We cannot complain. The embassy (in Sarajevo) has been very helpful and is well-respected," said Mr Robson, Colin Adams, head of the British Consulate, Beirut, which has been working with the DTI, said: "The embassy has been outstanding in the help it has given."

The Foreign Office is in the process of appointing a full-time trade representative to be sent from London to the embassy in Sarajevo. A local representative was appointed in March. A trade mission, headed by Martin Laing, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, is expected in early July.

Aid pledged, page 12



A man repairs his house in the suburb of Dobrinja in Sarajevo. Full-scale reconstruction in Bosnia will start shortly

Sweeteners aimed at taking strain out of Railtrack float

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will today unveil a bumper package of sweeteners to attract shareholders to the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation when it publishes the pathfinder prospectus for the sale today.

A cocktail of share discounts, windfall dividends and a 7 per cent yield will be on offer to help to allay investors' fears about the political risks attached to the offer.

For the first time in a privatisation, the Treasury has agreed to profits earned by a company while in the public sector being handed out to private investors. About £70 million will be paid out as dividends for the year that ended on March 31. City advisers pointed out that the payout, combined with the 15p share discount to small investors and the part-paid structure of the

share payments will give shareholders a first year return of up to 20 per cent. That is thought to be the biggest premium over building society rates since the first public flotations a decade ago.

Political arguments over the sale are likely to be heightened by details of directors' bonus packages outlined in the prospectus. It will show directors can earn up to 40 per cent of basic salary in bonuses if profit targets are met.

For Bob Horton, the chairman, who earned a basic salary of £122,000 last year (plus a £31,000 bonus) that would amount to an extra £48,500. John Edmonds, his chief executive, could earn a £52,800 bonus on his basic salary of £132,000. However, to avoid allegations of "fat cat" handouts, there will be no

share options. The prospectus will reveal that operating profits for the year just ended fell from £304 million to £296 million. However, they are predicted to grow to about £400 million by the year 2000.

The directors' bonuses and shareholder incentives are certain to provoke fresh outrage from Labour and the unions who will claim that the public and the City are being bribed to invest in a company that has assets valued at three times its expected sales value.

The pathfinder prospectus will include a lengthy statement from Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, detailing Labour's plans to subject the company to a tough regulatory regime with the eventual goal of taking it back into public ownership. Rail privatisation faces fur-

ther hurdles this week. On Tuesday, the Save Our Railways lobby group will launch a new legal action aimed at forcing the Government to allow British Rail to bid for franchises. Next day, Labour will lead a Commons debate on the Railtrack flotation that is expected to end in a close vote. Although no Tory backbenchers have said they will rebel against the Government, the debate could flush out deep unhappiness with the sale among some Conservative and Ulster Unionist MPs.

A survey by the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, out today, shows half of Railtrack's senior managers and four out of five middle-managers oppose privatisation on safety grounds.

Labour anger, page 2

Society to unveil payout

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRISTOL & WEST, Britain's ninth-largest building society, with assets of £9 billion, will today unveil the terms and details of likely bonus payouts after the Bank of Ireland announces a £600 million takeover of the society.

More than a million qualifying Bristol & West savers and borrowers can expect to receive average bonuses of close to £500. The future of Bristol & West has been the subject of intense speculation for a number of weeks as the society sought to finalise the details of the takeover by Ireland's second largest bank.

By last Thursday, long queues of speculators hoping to

cash in on the bonuses at the last minute had formed outside many branches and the society was forced to freeze new share accounts with immediate effect.

Bristol & West, which has nearly 160 branches, is expected to keep its own corporate identity in a deal that will mirror the £1.8 billion takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, a larger society, by Lloyds Bank last year. C&G is now the retail mortgage arm of the high street clearer.

Bank of Ireland has assets of nearly £20 billion and 27 branches in the UK, including Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff, London and Manchester. The

Bristol & West deal will also help to grow the bank's £3 billion mortgage book.

Bristol & West will need to secure the approval of its members. As the deal works its way through the system, speculation on the next likely candidate for a merger or conversion to banking status will become even more intense.

The Treasury and the Building Societies Commission are increasingly concerned about the destabilising effect that the flow of money into the next "hot" merger or takeover target is having, particularly on smaller societies.

Graham Searjeant, page 42

Routes to City, Heathrow and Oxford are planned

Branson dreams of rail empire

BY OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON is planning to build a Virgin rail empire linking the City of London with Heathrow Airport and lucrative tourist destinations such as Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon and Windsor. Despite last month's setback when he failed to secure the Gatwick Express franchise, Mr Branson is determined to become one of the leading players in Britain's new-look railways.

Virgin is already one of the leading lights in London & Continental Railways, the consortium that won the right to build the Channel Tunnel rail link and operate Eurostar high-speed train services to Paris, Brussels and the heart of Europe. The company is now turning its attention to domestic rail franchises.

Mr Branson's group is bidding for the Thames Trains franchise, potentially one of the most attractive on the network. It runs services between Paddington and destinations in Berkshire, Oxfordshire



Richard Branson is ready to roll

particularly attracted to the growth potential offered by destinations such as Oxford, one of the country's top tourist cities. Currently the route between Oxford and London is dominated by two

day-return tickets for as little as £2.97, far undercutting the best price available on the train.

Mr Branson believes there is scope to attract much of the coach business back to the railways by providing a 55-minute London to Oxford express service.

The other attraction of the franchise is that it could give its operator access to the Heathrow North railway station that BAA is planning to build near the airport. Virgin is examining the possibility of part-financing and developing the station if it wins the Thames Trains franchise.

If the Heathrow North station goes ahead, air passengers would have the chance to travel directly to the City by rail through yet another project under consideration by Mr Branson. This would involve reopening disused freight lines to create a direct 30-minute train service from the airport to the City. The "Virgin City Link" service could attract up to three million passengers every year and would open as early as 1998.

Small business 'crisis' in Europe

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BRITISH entrepreneurs are more optimistic than their counterparts in Europe about the prospects for their national economy and for their own companies, but they are gloomier than when they were six months ago, says a survey published today.

Dr Neil Cross, international director of 3i, the venture capital company that produced the survey, said that it revealed "a crisis of confidence amongst Europe's small firms". He added: "It may be that the implementation of still lower interest rates is required to boost prospects and restore business confidence for the future."

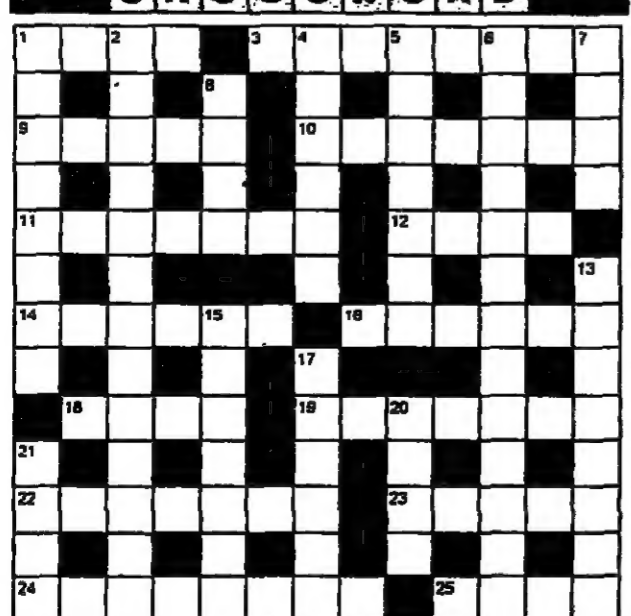
The bi-annual European Enterprise Index, put together by 3i, covers the expectations of entrepreneurs who manage small

and medium-sized businesses in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Only the British took a positive view of their commercial outlook, but they were gloomier than when they were last surveyed. The French are the most pessimistic on this front, closely followed by the Germans.

British firms were also alone in expecting turnover, profitability and employment levels to increase in the next 12 months. But unlike peers in France and Italy, they expect their marketing, research and development and training expenditure to fall. Entrepreneurs in all five countries expect investment to decline.

Firms in all countries, but particularly in Italy, expect wages to rise. Only French firms see prices falling.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 756

ACROSS

- 1 Fibre old invading tribesman (4)
- 3 Inauspicious, improper (8)
- 5 Giver (5)
- 10 Entrance attendant (7)
- 11 Foreboding; to portend (7)
- 12 Group of workers, criminals (4)
- 14 Far away (6)
- 16 International cultural organisation (abbr.) (6)
- 18 Seize rudely (4)
- 19 Type of boat, bodice, Hall (7)
- 22 Trimming of tresses (7)
- 23 Where drivers may sleep (5)
- 24 Something named illogically (8)

DOWN

- 2 Sharp end of boat (4)
- 1 Rider's trousers (8)
- 4 Severities one is abandoned to (iron.) (6,7)
- 6 Small valuable lump (6)
- 8 Shape with eight sides (7)
- 9 One who runs things (13)
- 7 Dip (food) into liquid (4)
- 13 — Major, the Great Bear (4)
- 18 Painful setback (4,4)
- 15 Substance smoked (7)
- 17 Hail to thee, — Spirit! (Shelley) (6)
- 20 Paperwork (slang) (4)
- 21 Counterfeit (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 755

ACROSS: 1 Cluttered 6 Cop 8 Tedious 9 Sit up 10 Dart 11 Almighty 13 Runner 14 Accept 17 Disarray 18 Oris 20 Crest 21 Samurai 22 Lot 23 Sedentary

DOWN: 1 Cole d'Or 2 Under one's feet 3 Thor 4 Rustle 5 Distinct 6 Catchment area 7 Poppy 12 Detritus 15 Testify 16 Massed 17 Duca 19 Amen

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